

1 John 1:5 - 2:2

Announcements:

- Facility progress - next Sunday = final Sunday... **May 3rd!** + **help on 27th!** (load, haul, unload)
- Give the call: children's ministry; hit a ceiling. new classroom. QR, tappers, table. send them!
- Bob and Jan - **70 years!** (from stage)
- New Here Lunch - Still time to join... **(today!)**
- Sunday night @ 6:00pm - (Islam recording is up...) - **Reports of Aliens** (foil hats, ha!)

Please open to **1 John Chapter 1** (need a Bible?)

- Last time: Jesus (eternal, beginning) was manifested to us: Heard, seen, observed, handled.
 - He is the Word of Life! (Logos Zoe) - **Vertical/Horizontal fellowship**. **Complete joy!**
- This time: A weighty message. **The Doctrine of Sin**. (sin = missing mark, but also, more...)
- Today, you're not going to like it, (might even squirm/cringe) but **you/I need it - it brings life!**

Message Title: Serious Business

- The Nature of God (verse 5)
- Living in Darkness (verses 6, 8, 10)
- Walking in the Light (verses 7, 9)
- Righteous Advocate (verses 2:1-2)

Things we **treat casually**: (terms of service, what we eat, swearing on something, arriving on time...)

Of course, some things we **do not treat casually**: court cases... paying rent... medical test results...

- John is saying our relationship with God and sin is not to be treated casually...
- This is **serious business** because God is holy and His grace is costly.

The Nature of God (verse 5)

V. 5 - This is the message which we have **heard from Him**

- This is not John's opinion... not my opinion... **your's isn't involved either...** **from Him [Christ]**
- **[we] declare to you...**

John is purposeful. Before looking at ourselves... the Christian life **begins with a right view of God**.

- Why not just jump straight into dealing with sin itself?
- Because a small view of God leads to a casual view of sin... (we say: not that big of a deal)
- No, we must understand **the weight of the holiness of God**.

V. 5 - **God is light**

- God is not a light or even the light — but, He **IS** light. (Rev 22:5, no lamp or sun...)
- God is "Spirit" (John 4:24)
- God is "Love" (1 John 4:8)
- God is "Light" (1 John 1:5)
- **No article** in the Greek = **quality, essence**. Who He is **by nature**, not just a characteristic...
 - He is **pure & holy** (morally)
 - He is **truthful**
 - He **exposes** what darkness hides (a main point of our text)
 - He is **the standard** - **We don't define God — God defines Himself for us**.
- **Psalms 27 personalizes** it and says "The Lord is my light and salvation..." (**today = personal**)

- Are you still living in darkness?

V. 5 - ***In Him [there] is no darkness at all.***

- John uses **a double negative** (you can't not... it's not that I don't... I ain't gonna never...)
- Greek: "**no darkness... none at all...**" **Emphatic to the max!** "...no shade, mixture, shadow, or stain of moral imperfection or holy compromise... **not even a little speck!**"

Light reveals, light guides, light exposes... (ever see a **light/sun hit particles in air?** breath?)

- **John 3:19-21, NIV** - "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.**" ...not just lip service, but active living! **folks are afraid of it...**

Living in Darkness (verses 6, 8, 10)

- **Jumping & bundling to show the clear approach John is taking...**

You should know there is **a debate among theologians:** (some think combating a form of gnosticism)

- **Audience = Believer or Unbeliever?** ...**Either way**, the **warning is sobering...**
- **Unbeliever** - **listen up... and get right with God...** (**so called Christians** might **be deceived**)
- **Deceived believer**, **wake up... to the reality** of the **hypocritical life you're living.**

Contextually, given the **uber repetitive "We"** language...

- John is speaking to "**the church**" (but **let the weight sit** sit **with the reality of your situation**)

We are **surprisingly good defense attorneys** when **the defendant is us** (*justify, rationalize, excuse*)

- We're great at **pointing at the issues "out there"** but not **"in here"** (**Paul Washer video clip**)
- **Paul Washer** "*I don't know why you're clapping, I'm talking about you...*" (2002 youth conf)

John repeats **"if we say" three times** showing us this is **a pattern of progressive self-deception.**

- V. 6 - **We lie to others** (*compartmentalize*)
- V. 8 - **We lie to ourselves** (*minimize*)
- V. 10 - **We lie about God** (*denying*)
- (somewhat **progressive** in intensity as well... **bad, worse, and worst**)

Lying to others...

V. 6 - ***If we say that...***

- **We have fellowship with Him** (*going around... ACTING LIKE our life with God is okay...*)
 - (*social media photos of perfection, when life does not match...*)
- **We walk in darkness**
 - **Walk** expresses the concept of **"behavior, conduct, and lifestyle..."**
 - **Darkness** - the **opposite of who God is** and **what He has** for us... (**we all know**)
- **Present tense = HABITUAL pattern.** This is a **LIFESTYLE, not a stumble.** (**unrepentant**)

V. 6 - Even though **we may fool others...** **We [actually] lie and do not practice the truth...**

- **Ephesians 5:8-11, ESV** - "...at one time you were darkness, **but now you are light in the Lord.** **Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and

try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. **Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.** - **Light** is not something just to believe, **but to be lived out...**

Lying to **ourselves**...

V. 8 - **If we say that...**

- **We have no sin** - Here John moves to the **Doctrine of Sin (Hamartiology)** directly.
- Note the shift: "**sin**" here is **singular** and paired with "**have**" — John is addressing our **sin nature**, *not just individual acts (those come in v. 9–10, plural)*.
- The Bible is clear: **"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)**.
- You don't have to **teach a toddler how to sin** — they know (*ever been attacked by one?*).
- At salvation **we receive a new nature** — **"such were some of you" (1 Cor 6:11)** — but **we still battle the flesh**. That's the **war of Romans 7**: We must **put it to death (Col. 3:5)**.

V. 8 - **We [are deceiving] ourselves, and the truth is not in us (eating donuts, acting like it's chicken!)**

- **Don't be deceived! (planao = ourselves)** Don't live like **an ostrich with your head buried...**

Lying **about God**...

V. 10 - **If we say that...**

- **We have not sinned** is **perfect (completed) tense**; (**strong denial language**) looking back over **one's life and declaring a clean record**. (*This is Genesis 3 all over again... excuse & blame!*)
- **Luke 18:10-14** - "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' **I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"
- **The picture is clear, yeah?** The person who **acknowledged it, and owned it** was blessed...
- **Ecc 7:20, NET** - "For there is **not one truly righteous person on the earth who continually does good and never sins.**"
- **Solomon's words**, but **God agrees (Romans 3:10 - There is no one righteous, no, not one!)**

To **disagree**...

V. 10 - **We make Him a liar, and His word is not in us...**

- Your **opinion/perspective on this truth**, *does not change the reality* of it.
- **King David** tried to **bury and hide his sin** in **2 Samuel 11**...
- He **committed adultery, covered (his sin) with murder, and carried on royal duties**; until **Nathan confronted him** with a hypothetical story, **David condemned the other man** without flinching.
- **Self-deception reaches its peak** when we apply God's Word to **everyone but ourselves**...
- **What's needed?** John is calling for **transparency and honesty**... To **agree and repent!**

Walking in the Light (verses 7, 9)

John places the **positive truths between** each **"if we say"** statement. The good news *isn't a long way off... it's tucked right in the middle...* There's always **a better way alongside** the warning signs...

Highly theological, but when we get to the **end of this section**, *hopefully you're able to grasp it...*

V. 7 - But if **we walk (are living) in the light** as He (Himself) is in the light

- **Walking in the light** is not **sinless perfection** - it is **honesty before God**.
- And it produces **two things**:
- **Fellowship with one another** - *confession (Jam. 5), humility, prayer, biblical conflict (Matt. 18).*
- **Ongoing cleansing** - "**the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**"
- That word **cleanses (katharizō)** is: **present active indicative** - "**keeps on cleansing.**" Not "**has cleansed**" (**once-for-all justification**), but **continuous, daily cleansing**. That's **sanctification!**
- **Two truths** to hold together:
- **Positional (judicial)**: **At salvation**, all sins (**past, present, future**) are forgiven. "**It is finished.**"
- **Relational (familial)**: Daily sin **doesn't undo your sonship**, but **it breaks fellowship**.
 - Picture **a child who breaks something and hides it from a parent**.
 - The **parent already knows**. The **issue isn't information** - it's **honesty and restored relationship**. That's what **walking in the light** looks like
 - **...shaped by His Word (Psalm 119:105)**

V. 9 - If **we confess our sins**

- **Confess** is the **keyword** here that **makes everything clear**: **V. 9 - Confess (homo" (same) + "logeō" (to say)) = "to speak the same word or say the same thing."**
 - **Opposite of covering, excusing, justifying, rationalizing, minimizing...**
- When you **confess**, you are **simply agreeing with God** about what He **already knows and has said**. It is **coming into alignment** with **His morality, truth, and light!** This is **walking in the light**
 - But, **confession without repentance is only words**... it **more than admitting**, it's **acknowledging, owning, and seeking to rectify**...
- And, remember from **verse 8** - the difference between **sin (singular)** and **sins (plural)**? This verse is **not dealing with your sin nature** like we did in verse 8, it's **agreeing with God** about **ongoing individual personal, particular acts of sin**. It's **hard to confess sin in the abstract!**
- **Solomon** understood this...
- **Proverbs 28:13, ESV** - "**Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.**"
- **David** did as well...
- **Psalm 51:3-4** - "**For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight — that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.**" - **No excuses, softening, renaming...**

V. 9 - He is **faithful and just**

- **Faithful**: He has **promised to cleanse us**, and **He is a covenant keeping God!**
- **Just/Righteous**: He can forgive because **the cross satisfied the penalty** (where we'll close)

V. 9 - To **forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.

- **Side**: forgiveness is **not the same as consequences**. God cleanses, but **David still lost his child**
- **Play on words** = **God is righteous**, but **we need cleansing from unrighteousness**.
 - **We can't clean ourselves, the world can't clean us, but Christ can!**

Consider the **feet-washing** as a helpful picture:

- **John 13:7-10, CSB** - "[Jesus answered Simon Peter] 'What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand.' 'You will never wash my feet,' Peter said. Jesus replied, 'If I don't wash you, you have no part with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not only my feet, but also

my hands and my head.' 'One who has bathed,' Jesus told him, 'doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean...'"

- Peter had already had his **"bath"** (he was **justified (completely clean)**)
- But he still needed the **feet washing (sanctifying forgiveness)**
- You and I are **clean before God eternally**, because of the **blood of Christ!**
- But we **still get dirty in this life**. We **hear, see, and do things we wish we would not have...**
 - **We need regular foot washing... (in His Word!)**

Main application:

- Confess **specifically**, not vaguely...
 - 'Lord, forgive me for... **everything**.' God says, 'Let's talk about **4:32 PM specifically**.' **ha!**
- Better is... a **real, named, owned** acknowledgment. 'Lord, show me where I walked in darkness today. I want to agree with you about it and receive Your cleansing....')
- Confess **quickly**, not eventually...
- Build a **rhythm of regular honesty** before God...

Righteous Advocate (verses 2:1-2)

V. 1 - My little children

- **John is much older**. his **beloved people**. It's **not cold theology**; it's **a pastor writing with tears...**
- **Family of God** language! (another indicator that **his audience is clearly the believer...**)

V. 1 - These things I write to you, so that you may/will not sin.

- John's goal is **not that we excuse sin**, but that we **do not sin**
- The **goal is holiness, not carelessness...** (**Grace is NOT a hall pass to be abused...**)
- The **trajectory of our lives** should **aim towards righteousness** and **the forsaking of sin...**

At the same time, John is realistic and knows that Christians do occasionally sin...

V. 2:1 - And if anyone sins...

- Notice - **ANY PERSON... ANY SIN...**

V. 2:1 - We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. - super mega rad!

- **V. 2:1 - Advocate (parakletos) = lit. "The called alongside one," also "comforter, helper, pleader, counsel for defense (defender)" (also, used of the Holy Spirit in a different context)**
- Yes, **Christ is our help in time of need**, even more, an **advocate** is **one who stands for you!**
- **Courtroom image:**
 - **Father as Judge (Genesis 18:25 - all throughout really...)**
 - **Satan as Accuser (Rev 12:10 - "the accuser of the brethren")** and **he has the tapes**
 - **Mounds of incriminating evidence; loves to throw it at us (desires to pummel...)**
 - **"If someone errs and sins, he should not add the sin of despair. After sin the devil always alarms the heart and makes us tremble. For he hurls a person into sin in order that he may finally force him into despair..." (Martin Luther)**
 - **"I feel, when I have sinned, an immediate reluctance to go to Christ. I am ashamed to go. I feel as if it would do no good to go... and a thousand other excuses; but I am persuaded they are all lies, direct from hell." (Robert Murray McCheyne)**
 - **Jesus as Advocate (1 John 2:1) - attorney and intercessor...**

- Hebrews 7:25 - "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**"
- Jesus is **qualified** because He is Jesus Christ the righteous (one).
 - No other **Christ**. No other name! (**Jesus**) All others have sinned (He is **righteous one!**)

V. 2:2 - **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**

- V. 2:2 - Propitiation (hilasmos) = "atoning sacrifice, means of appeasing, or satisfaction of divine wrath." - same language used for the "**mercy seat**" on the ark of the covenant (photo)
 - Gold lid where the **priest sprinkled blood annually** (**blood covering the law**)
- **This is huge for us!**
 - **God's pure light of holiness** requires a penalty for sin
 - **Wrath must be poured out.** Blood must be spilled
 - **Christ spilled His blood** and took the Father's wrath on our behalf...
- His sacrifice **satisfied God's justice**. Now we can be forgiven, and God can remain holy.
- Friends, this is in the present tense. Christ **did and still continues** to be our blood covering!

V. 2:2 - **And not for ours only but also for the whole world.**

- **Now this verse could become very complex if taken out of context... (Calvin/Arminian)**
 - All the "**Gentiles**" (as opposed to Jews)
 - All "**kinds**" of people (tribes, tongues, male, female, free, slave, etc)
 - The whole "**elect**" (John nowhere else has used it that way...)
 - Encompassing "**Humanity**" (Title Deed approach)
- But the **propitiation** language itself **settles the main question**.
 - Just as the high priest once a year sprinkled blood for the **whole nation** (though **not every Israelite was saved**)
 - So **Christ's atonement was for the whole world** (though **not all people are saved**).
- **This is not universalism**. It's simply saying **Christ's sacrifice was fully sufficient for the world. Nothing more is needed** to redeem mankind. *No sin too dark, no life too far gone.*
 - **Sufficient for all** — **applied only to those who confess and believe.**

Closing:

John's point in these verses - the **check engine light** is shouting at us...

- Do not **compartmentalize, minimize or deny** the sin in your life...
- **You can ignore it. You can put tape over it.** But the **problem doesn't magically go away...**
 - *It just gets **more expensive...***
- **Sin is the warning light. Grace is the repair shop** — but **only if you respond...**

You don't have to pretend, You don't have to hide, **run toward Him** when you fail — **not away...**

PRAY