

God is Light

Walk in the Light; Keep the Commandment

1 John 1.5ff

GOD IS LIGHT

This is the first and fundamental characteristic of God is that He is Light...and that is our guiding characteristic for life and love.

God is light and in him there is no obscurity. Notice in the creation account:

On the first day God created light but he did not create the sun and moon till the 4th day.

So the light that guided the universe; gave life to the plants; and began the cycle of nature *was light that came from His Being.*

“Darkness in him is NOT AT ALL” (YLT)

“No sin, no wickedness, no imperfection” (AMP)

“and darkness in Him NO, there is NONE” (ouk estin oudemia)

So as I prepare my walk, I must live; deport myself and occupy myself with his pure light! No obscurity; total clarity; staying clean.

Go back to the sermon on the mount:

In this clean, clear, pure light, My yes must be yes and my no must be no.

If I pray for his Kingdom to come in my life, I understand that the arrival of that Kingdom will come with light and it will expose my darkness!

It will expose my sin, my wickedness, my failures, my shortcomings and my faults.

Which leads us to the next point:

SO WALK IN THE LIGHT

Take a little time here for some definitions...let's remove condemnation and WORKS...

1 Jn 3.6-9; 5.18 Sinneth not; commits sin is of devil; born of God does not sin. But wait? We are born in sin, shaped in iniquity...

Look at 1.8-9...

Unfortunately the key to unlocking this dilemma is found in Greek grammar:

When John uses the phrases sins not, commits sin, or does not sin...He's using a tense called the present active indicative (*A mood tense*)

So for instance if I say: “Sing a song, Jack!” PRES ACT IMPERATIVE

We understand that Jack is singing A song at THAT time; not 3 songs for two hours.

“Jack is singing” PRES ACT INDICATIVE

We do not know how many, how long...

So when John talks about sinning, or walking in darkness, he's speaking in the indicative sense.

-If we are born of God we do not *live in sin*; continue; revel; celebrate; *luxuriate in our sin!*

-We do not deport ourselves in darkness; do not thrive in it; seek out the darkness...

BUT DO we occasionally sing an EVIL song? Sure do! A flesh song; bitterness song; lack of faith song; jealousy song

:And when we do, we GRIEVE over that song; are frustrated by the song! Get angry at how much that hurts the Lord who saved us...

But will you battle the weakness of your flesh? Yes!

Will you struggle with a particular sin? Fight against an indwelling bitterness?

Fall into an old heartache? Stumble and commit an error?

So with that in mind, let's read it the correct way: Paraphrase vss 6-10...

If we deport ourselves as darkness; if we occupy ourselves consistently and constantly with darkness;

Then we are liars and the truth is not in us!

If we say we have no sin; if we say we are not struggling with sin; if we say we are not fighting the flesh

Then we are deceived and we are LIARS there is no truth

If we say we HAVE NO sin, then we call him a liar and the word of life is not in us.

Now remember who he was dealing with: False teachers who said

It doesn't matter what you do with your body ***let it sin*** (or) you can control your body perfectly ***and never sin***.

John is saying we have sinned... we will sin... we will fail Him

BUT... vs9...Thank God for vs 9!

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive...

AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENT (Just one...the hardest one)

In John's amplification style, he cycles back around, reiterates and expands his thoughts.

Each section (Light) 1.5-3.10; (Love) 3.11-5.17...same thing...

He talks about commandments plural, but then he says, I give you *no new "commandment."*

But what you've heard from the beginning: commandment(s), then ONE commandment. Always the one commandment of love!

Start by loving the Lord your God w/ all yr heart, soul mind and strength, y neighbor as yourself...

and you will be WELL ON YOUR WAY to serving God effectively!

But remember, SIMPLE is not EASY.

John gives us probably the hardest single commandment!