

## Living in The Light (1 John 1.5-2.2)

If something threatened the most important relationship in your life, would you be casual about it? If friends were entertaining beliefs you knew would wreck their lives, would you sit back and say nothing? The Apostle John refuses to sit back and say nothing, instead he holds up a message he received that God is light and goes on to help his friends learn what living in the light is all about.

### 1. The Message that will guide you (1 John 1:5)

Light is a metaphor in Scripture for the life or salvation God brings.

= Jesus is described as light. John 1:4-5, 9; John 8:12, 12:35

Also a metaphor used to describe what God is like (his character).

= God is pure, righteous, holy – the source and center of all that is good and true. He alone has sinless perfection and moral purity.

*God is Light* = Holiness + revelation. This is who God is. This is the way to walk.

The more we move away from what is true about God, the less we will see how we're meant to live.

### 2. The Lies that will deceive you (1 John 1:6-10)

Early form of Gnosticism = emphasized the supremacy of the intellect and believed matter is evil.

**Lie #1 We can have fellowship with God and walk in darkness.**

Walking = a metaphor for the whole way of life / day by day / steady growth

*"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light..."* Ephesians 5:11-18

**Lie #2 We have no sin in our life.**

Do you co-exist (happily) thinking there's nothing wrong with habitual sin? Have you stopped calling sin, sin and started to dismiss it as something else?

V9 John answers that lie with truth. Here's a passage that will lead you to freedom. God IS faithful + just.

**Lie #3 We have never sinned.**

### 3. The Truth that will empower you (1 John 2:1-2)

Not sinless perfection! But a life committed to guarding against and fighting sin.

Jesus is our advocate. 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25, 8:1

= helper, counselor who stands in our defense / pleads our cause

Jesus is "the righteous" one.

Jesus is the propitiation for our sins. The work of the Father and The Son together in love.

**QUESTIONS** (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read 1 John 1:5-2:2. What contrasts does John draw between darkness and light?
2. What does John mean when he says, "*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all*"?
3. How might a clear understanding of God's character guide and shape us? Do you have any examples of this in your own life?
4. What lies (deceptions) does John warn against?
5. What are some ways we deceive ourselves about sin?
6. What does John mean by the phrase "walk in the light" found in 1:7? Consider Ephesians 5:11-18
7. How does confession of sin bring freedom? See 1:6-9. When we confess our sin John says "*God is faithful and just to forgive us*"? What is God faithful to and what best demonstrates his justice?
8. How might the truths found in 2:1-2 empower and sustain us? Have you experienced this?
9. How is having Jesus Christ pleading your cause before God the Father radically different from pleading your own cause?

Spend time in prayer, confessing whatever sin needs to be confessed, the express deep gratitude to the One who pleads your cause before the Father – the Righteous One, Jesus the King.