

6. God Is Light

1 John 1-2

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John's Purposes in His First Letter

- That you may have fellowship with God:
 - 1 John 1:3 (NIV) *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*
- That you may avoid sin:
 - 1 John 2:1 (NIV) *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

John's Purposes in His First Letter

- That you may avoid false teachings:
 - 1 John 4:3 (NIV) *...every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*
- That you may know you have eternal life:
 - 1 John 5:13 (NIV) *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

God's Message Thru Christ

- 1 John 1:5 (NIV) *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*
- So Jesus' message is:
 - “God is light.”
- John emphasizes this by saying:
 - “In Him is no darkness at all.”

The Consequences

- 1 John 1:6-7 (NIV) *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all [or every] sin.*
- If we claim fellowship with God, but walk in darkness → we lie (7).
- If we walk in the light → we have fellowship & forgiveness.

A Digression (?) on Sin

- 1 John 1:8 to 2:2
- To help us see the necessity of confessing our sins.
- To protect us against false teachers claiming sinless perfection.

The Test: Obedience

1 John 2:3-6 (NIV) *We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

The Test: Obedience

- A general statement:
 - If we keep his commands → we know him (2:3).
- So, it follows (logically or practically):
 - If someone says “I know Him” but doesn’t keep his commands → he is a liar (2:4).
 - Whoever keeps his word → in him the love of God is perfected (2:5).
 - One who says he abides in Him must walk as He [Jesus] walked (2:6).

The Command: Love!

1 John 2:7-11 (NIV) *Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. 9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.*

The Command: Love!

- This command is old, because it is given in the Old Testament (2:7).
- It is new, because Jesus emphasized it and lived it (2:8).
- It is true in him [Jesus] and in you [real believers] (2:8).
- So, one who says he is in the light, but hates his brother → is still in darkness (9).
- So, one who loves his brother → remains in the light, as there is nothing to make him stumble (10).

A General Summary

- All in 1 John 2:11:
- One who hates his brother →
 - He is in darkness.
 - He walks in darkness.
 - He doesn't know where he is going.
 - He is blinded by the darkness.

Conclusions

- Do I have fellowship with God?
- Do I have eternal life?
 - What is my life like?
 - Do I love others or hate them?
 - Do I keep God's commands or break them?
- Ask yourself these sorts of things:
 - Do I bully others?
 - Do I call them names?
 - Do I put them down?

Conclusions

- It is very easy for us to see these problems in other people!
- Forget about them!
- Look at your own life!
- Compare it with what God commands, not with how you are better than (some) others.

The End

God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.