

How to Walk in the Light, Part 3 (1 John 1:6—2:2)

Basis for Writing 1 John: Eyewitness experiences

Primary Reason for the Writing of 1 John: Full joy that God intends for us (1:4)

Letting the truth of God govern (perf pass part) our thoughts, responses, & actions, regardless of circumstances.

Two Truths About God (1:5)

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is ~ light and in Him is ~ no darkness at all.

Truth #1: God is LIGHT

- TRUTH: knowing what is true vs false (right thinking)
- HOLINESS: morality; purity; doing what is right vs wrong (right living)

Truth #2: In God is NO DARKNESS at all [oudemia – not one]

- God knows & understands everything – perfectly.
- God is absolutely holy, abhorring all sin & sinfulness.

God, as LIGHT, knows everything, fully and completely, and He is absolutely holy, abhorring that is sinful.

How Do I Walk in the Light? (1:6—2:2)

1. By Not By Basing It on What I Say or Intend (1:6)

⁶ If we say^x that we have ~ fellowship with Him, and walk ~ in darkness, we lie ~ and do not practice ~ the truth.

- Talking “fellowship” but walking in ignorance (not knowing what is true) and unholiness (not wanting what is pure) is to be living a lie!
 - We do not speak the truth (“we lie”).
 - We do not practice the truth. (Walking in the light → doing the truth.)
- Our words are validated or proven false by **what directs our ongoing walk.** (By what MAP do I walk?)

2. By Walking by Means of God’s Light (1:7-8)

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 Christ His Son cleanses ~ us from all SIN. ⁸ If we say^x that we have ~ no SIN, we deceive ~ ourselves, and the truth is ~ not in us.

a. Requirement (7a):

- Letting God’s light guide me, showing me what is true and holy, and helping me overcome my sinfulness (my sinful bent).

b. Benefits (7b):

- Benefit #1: Ongoing fellowship with one another!
- Benefit #2: Ongoing cleansing from all SIN (no article, singular). LIGHT counters my sinfulness (sinful bent) by showing me what is true and holy.

c. Dangers (8):

- I must continually own my sinfulness (sinful bent). Denying my sinfulness removes my awareness of my need of God’s light to overcome it.

3. By Saying the Same Thing about My Sins as God Does (9-10)

⁹ If we confess ~ our SINS, He is ~ faithful and just to forgive^x us [our] SINS and to cleanse^x us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say^x that we have not SINNED ~, we make ~ Him a liar, and His word is ~ not in us.

a. Requirement:

Verses 1:6-8	Verses 1:9—2:2
...cleanses us from all SIN ...if we say that we have no SIN [no confession required or forgiveness]	...If we confess our SINS ...He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] SINS ...If we say that we have not SINNED ...so that you may not SIN ...if anyone SINS ...He Himself is the propitiation for our SINS

- Ongoing responsiveness to God’s light (v. 7) to inform and transform (addresses our sinfulness),
- and Ongoing confessing of what God’s light reveals [calls sin what God calls it] of what God’s light reveals (addresses our sinful actions)

b. Benefits:

- Benefit #1: Forgiveness of the confessed sins (known)
- Benefit #2: Cleansing of each unrighteousness (unknown)

c. Dangers of Not Confessing (10):

- Is making God a liar!
- Is rejecting God’s Word (light comes from the Word – not feelings, etc.)

Walking in the Light Is Living Truthfully & Responsively to the Truth

If we say we have fellowship	...are lying	we are not doing the truth
If we say that we have no sin	...deceiving ourselves	the truth is not being in us
If we say that we have not sinned	...make Him a liar	His word is not being in us

4. By Seeing Any Sin to Be as _____ as God Says (2:1-2)

¹ My little children, these things I write ~ to you, so that you may not SIN^x. And if anyone SIN^s^x, we have ~ an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is ~ the propitiation for our SINS, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

a. By seeking _____ to sin (1a).

b. By seeing the serious nature of _____ sin—requiring advocacy (1b).

c. By understanding the deep _____ made for our sins (2a).

d. By thanking God for the _____ payment for the sins of everyone (2b).

Understand the great salvation God has provided not only to save me from my sins, but also to allow me to be walking with Him in His light to have joy as a sinner.

1:7 Jesus’ blood cleanses us of all unrighteousness.

1:9 Jesus’ blood allows God to faithfully and justly forgive us of our sins and to cleanse of our sins.

2:1 Jesus continues to be our Advocate when we do commit sins and confess them.

2:2 Jesus is the propitiation (satisfactory payment) for the entire world.