

1 John 1:5-7

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. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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. *NKJV*

The Light that God has shared with us is Jesus Christ. In Him the Father's glory is revealed. In Jesus is life itself. Death, separation from the Father, does not come through Jesus. Life, union with the Father through Jesus, is given by Jesus.

That one who claims that he is beholding the Light of God and is transfigured by it in faith and repentance is one who does not walk in darkness, error or sinfulness any longer. One whose life has not been changed through Jesus Christ is not a child of the Father.

There is nothing contrary in the life of those who walk in the light of Christ. To know the true walk of a person you need not merely hear what a person says, but also observe what he does. Some would say "Actions speak louder than words." There is a lot of truth to that statement. Essentially, that profound truth is what John is teaching here in this passage. Walking in death or the erroneous ways of self-pleasing living is a mark of those who walk without Jesus Christ. The distinguishing attribute of one who has fellowship with God is that he loves the true life given to him at his second birth—when he was "born again." (see John 3)

We don't just say that we have the light, we demonstrate it by walking in it. *This theme of consistency of walk and talk comes around quite a few times in this short book of the Bible.*

For example: Imagine an elected official campaigning strongly on one side of an issue and then once in office voting the exact opposite every time a vote came up! This type of duplicitous living is what John is speaking of here. "If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."

We must walk in the truth of the realities that God has revealed to us through His Son Jesus Christ. Realities such as our fallen condition as sinful people, our need for a new

start to life through Christ alone, and many more biblical truths.

Living in the light of God means understanding the true nature of ourselves. It means living in an honest dealing with our souls. Everyone's house appears clean when the lights are off, but how about when the lights are turned on? A reluctance to confess one's sinfulness is the first sign that one is not living in the reality that God is light. A reluctance to take action towards those things that are exposed by the revelation that He is light also demonstrates that one is not truly "walking in the light."

As the Bible rightly reflects who Jesus Christ is it also accurately assesses who we are. It shows us where we "fall short" of the glory of God. It mercifully exposes our sinful condition to us. And instead of only burning a sizzling hot heat into the short-fall of our dark sinful condition, the Bible, as it reflects who Jesus Christ is, tells us where we can receive light and life! It tells us the truth about ourselves, our sin, God and His rich mercy!

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

(John 3:19-21 NKJV)

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Are there any gray areas when it comes to one's account before God? Is it really that simple to think in terms of those who are in the "Light" and those who are in "Darkness"?
2. Does John propose that we can at least begin to assess the condition of a person's soul by how they talk and behave?
3. Why do actions speak louder than words?
4. What is wrong with the person who claims they are in fellowship with God and yet live in rejection of His Truth?
5. Is the Bible really "merciful" in exposing our sinfulness to us? How can we say that it is?
6. Think on John 3:19 and explain it.
7. Do you live in the reality of how God sees you? Do you believe what the Bible says about you, your sinfulness, the claims of Christ and the need for a changed life found only in Him?

Read the beauty of John Wesley's explanation of "Light and Life" in the Christmas Carol "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"

Hail the heav'n born prince of peace!

Hail the Son of righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings

Ris'n with healing in His wings

Mild He lays His glory by

Born that man no more may die

Born to raise the sons of earth

Born to give them second birth

Hark! The herald angels sing

"Glory to the newborn King!"