



1 John 1:5-10

What is darkness? What does it feel like to be in total darkness?

According to science, darkness does not really exist. Darkness, is in reality the absence of light. What's more, we are able to study light but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Darkness is merely a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present.

In this passage of 1 John, we learn that God is light. Furthermore we learn that "In Him there is no darkness at all". What this means for us is that although we often deny we need the light, once we confess of our sins, we enter into the light and find that we are both cleansed from all unrighteousness and in a place of fellowship with one another. Seems like a win-win situation. The only thing keeping us from the light is our own deception and pride.

Opening Questions

1. Describe a time when you were in a power outage causing an extended black-out time. What do you remember about the darkness?
2. How would you define an oxymoron? List some of your favorite oxymorons.
3. Describe a time when you (or one of your siblings) was caught lying as a child? How did your parents respond? Did the lie impact others (if so, how?)?

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⁵This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

⁷but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us

Read 1 John 1:5-10

Observations from the text

1. How does verse 1 describe God?
2. How is life “walking in darkness” and “walking in the Light” described?
3. Contrast the difference of saying we have no sin and confessing our sin. How does the text describe the each of their outcomes?
4. Circle the word “we” in the text. Who do you think the author John is referring to with “we”?
5. Cross out “we” and replace it with “I”. Read the passage to yourself using “I”.
6. What is the outcome of confessing our sin?

Interpretation of the text:

7. Who is the “we” the author John is referring to?
8. The statement is made: “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” What was happening in the church to put this strong statement on the gospel message?
9. How do we make God a liar?

Application of the text

10. The text makes a clear distinction of “light” and “dark”. There doesn’t seem to be room for semi-light or semi-dark. Where are your “light” spots in your life? Where are your “dark” spots?

11. What are practical ways you can “walk in the light as he is in the light?” this next week?

12. As a small group, how can you “walk in the light ...and have fellowship with one another”?

13. What keeps you from confessing your sin? How does the power of the Gospel allow us to freely confess our sins?

Close in prayer. Take time to confess sins from walking in darkness. Pray through practical ways you can “walk in the light as He is in the light”.



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