

1 John 1:5-10 Joyful Assurance: Fellowship in the Light

Last week we saw that John introduced his letter by unfolding for us his experience with Christ, his proclamation of Christ, his (and our potential) fellowship with Christ which results in fullness of joy. Now, he continues that idea of fellowship by informing us that such fellowship can only happen in the light, with the Light who dwells in the light.

READ/PRAY

As we think about fellowshiping in the light, with the light this morning, let's think through 3 major truths about The Light.

I. Light Communicates v5

1. Light communicates purity, power, and majesty.
2. Psalm 104:1-2 *You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.*
3. 1 Timothy 6:15b-17 *he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.*

God is light with no darkness, not blemish, no stain whatsoever

1. He is light...there is nothing to hide with Him...he is 100% pure and holy.
2. Revelation 4

II. Light Illuminates

1. It reveals what is hidden in the darkness.
2. As it reveals what is hidden in the dark recesses of our hearts, it often offends us.
3. John 3:19 *This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil*

v6—If we SAY we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness (physical and/or moral darkness), we lie.

1. *The incompatibility between our claiming fellowship with him and are walking in darkness is so gross that it may well warrant the strong language we lie and do not the truth.* Robert Candlish
2. This is not just a lie that we say...it is a lie that we do.
 - a. We do not practice the truth!
 - b. It is acting, an untruth.
 - c. Our lives are a practical falsehood.

v8—On the other side of that coin if you say that you have no sin...if you think you have arrived...that you are good...you are kidding yourself!

v10—Light Communicates the holiness of God...and it illuminates our sinfulness and hypocrisy

III. Light Penetrates

The light communicates God's holiness, it illuminates our sinfulness, and it penetrates the dark recesses of our hearts to cause transformation.

Walking in the Light, with nothing to hide, produces 2 things.

1. Communion v7

- a. With God...go back to verse 3 and the fellowship with John and the disciples.
- b. And by default with each other

2. Confession v9

- a. The closer we get to the light the more sin is exposed and and we must confess
- b. What confession isn't
 1. It is not just admitting that you have sinned...that is part of it, but that is not all of it.
 2. Many of us confess our sin with no real determination to forsake our sin.
 3. If I eat so many reese's peanut butter cups that I get sick and vomit, what good does it do if I wipe my mouth and start popping more reese's cups?
 4. I have done nothing but empty my stomach so that I can fill it again with the same stuff that made me sick to begin with.
 5. My appetite has not changed!
 6. This is how many of us treat confession
 - a. We feel bad
 - b. We confess...throw up on God our sin so that we can feel better
 - c. But our appetite is still for the things of the world so we go right back to it!
 7. Proverbs 26:11 *Like a dog that returns to its vomit Is a fool who repeats his*

folly.

b. What Confession is

1. To confess means to see our sin as God sees it...and therefore forsake it.
2. Proverbs 28:13 *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

3. Cleansing v9, v7b

To confess our sin in this way results in complete forgiveness and complete cleansing.

Cliff analogy: Imagine the ocean...the tide is going out. On the beach is a high cliff overlooking the ocean. ON the high cliff stands Christ with his back to the edge of the cliff with his back to the ocean as the tide goes out. You meet him there and present to Him your sin.

- a. Micah 7:19 *he will tread our iniquities underfoot*
- b. Isaiah 38:17 *you have cast all my sins behind your back*
- c. Micah 7:19 *You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea*
- d. Psalms 103:12 *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*
- e. Jeremiah 31:34 *I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more*

Conclusion:

You can have this fellowship with God...with one another...and complete cleansing (a do-over today)! If you will just come to the Light.

How?

1. Turn...Repent
2. Trust Christ...Turn to God
3. Be Transformed

Home Group Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
3. What do we learn about God the Father...God the Son...and/or God the Holy Spirit from the main Scripture text?
4. What do we learn about man?
5. Are there any commands to obey? Promises to believe? Sins to avoid?
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"