

GOD IS LIGHT (I JOHN 1:5)

The Message that was heard was not simply a reiteration of some spoken word of Christ while he was on earth, it was not a rehearsal of precise words of Christ in a mechanical way, but what he had learned of Christ. It is not something 'about' him, but something he had 'learned' from him. It was not a discovery the apostles had made themselves or something they had inferred from his teaching. It was an authoritative communication delivered to them in a personal religion. The message that was heard brings with it the compulsion and obligation to "declare" it.

John makes the statement that "God is Light." He makes other declarations concerning the attributes of God ("*God is Love*" I John 4:8; "*God is spirit*" John 4:24), but none more comprehensive than this. As James Morgan said "*its simplicity and comprehensiveness are amazing. It is so simple, a child perceives its meaning, while it is so comprehensive as to render a full exposition impossible.*" (Morgan 1865, 33). Notice that it does not say that God is "*the light*." Without the definite article this signifies that he is light in the highest sense; in absolute perfection. It would also be wrong to put an indefinite article in here and say that God is "*a light*" because it would put God in a class among others.

If we are going to have fellowship with God, we are going to do it in these three areas and in this order.

a. **Evangelically:** An acceptance of the truth of the message declared in V's 1-4; John 1:4; Ephesians 5:8; Luke 1:79.

b. **Ethically:** Matthew 5:16; II Corinthians 6:14; John 3:19.

The gods of the people to whom John is writing were gods of foul human vices and temple prostitution. Such gods as Zeus and Herms (Acts 14:12) and Artemis (Acts 19:28). They had gods that could cheat and lie, gods that were licentious and unchaste. They were accustomed to think of God as a mixed nature and to think of a God who was all truth, all love, and all righteousness was a foreign concept, a God in whom was no trickery or treachery, a God who is not capricious, who is immutable, predicable in his dealings with men.

c. **Eternally** - this is where fellowship culminates. John 12:35-36.