

1 John 1:5-10

The Character of God and the Christian Life

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:5-10

1. The Character of God (v.5)

- God is morally pure.
- God is unique and different from humanity.

God's light reveals what we would rather keep hidden.

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

• John 3:19–21

2. Those who know God reflect his character (vv.6-7)

- Walking in the darkness is:
 - Being comfortable doing what God calls sin (cf. John 3:20)
 - Not loving fellow Christians

Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (1 John 2:9–11)

3. Because God is light, he reveals darkness in all people (vv.8-10)

- When we first meet God his light reveals that we are not like him, that we have failed to love him as we should have, and that our failures require cleansing.
- A failure to recognize our own sin shows that we have not really met God
 - Christians do not deny past sins (v.10)
 - Christians do not deny present sins (v.8)

4. Those who have come to know God confess their sins (v.9)

- True confession of sin includes confessing specific and recent sins
 - We ought to confess to one another, not merely to God in prayer
 - Who should we confess to?
 - To those whom you've offended
 - When you've sinned publicly, your confession should usually be public also
 - There should also be ongoing, confession of sin between fellow brothers and sisters in the church.
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5. God is faithful to forgive those who confess their sins to him (v.9)

- The main point: God is faithful
 - Note: confession doesn't cause forgiveness
 - God is faithful to forgive ALL of our sins
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The character of God informs and empowers the Christian life

- We are not comfortable in the darkness, but we turn toward the light
 - We are not perfect, but we are honest about our sins
 - We are not complacent in our spiritual growth, but we seek God who both convicts and cleanses us
 - We are confident in the blood of Christ
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