

1 John 1:5-10

HIGHLIGHT

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But 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. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

EXPLAIN

- Who was this written to?
 - In this passage, John address three false claims. He is correcting three false claims. John is writing to believers (1:1, 2:7).
- God is Light
 - John references God being light. John isn't arguing that every lighting structure is God, but that God is completely sinless. Also, another cool thought is how light does not stay contained. Light reveals itself. Light effects any space it is in. Even more, God moves towards me. I personally have a relationship with Him.
- In this passage, John addresses three false claims. Each claim is worse than the other.
 - First Claim: The assertion of having fellowship with God, while at the same time habitually walking in sin (v6-7).
 - John responds by calling Christians to walk in the light. He argued that to walk in the light cannot work with habitual sin. I thought it was important the idea of walking in darkness. John is calling out those who continually sin without remorse. A sign of salvation is conviction.
 - Second Claim: The second claim was one stage worse, they claimed to be without sin. (v8).
 - John is addressing the false thinking of someone believing themselves to be without sin. I am a sinner. All people are sinners (Romans 3:23). This false claim tries to take away from this fact. By doing this, it would negate Jesus' purpose in coming. Why would he have to die if no one sinned? His work on the cross shows this argument to be wrong. I should look to Jesus if I believe myself to be without sin. By looking to Him, I will see my wickedness in comparison.

- Third Claim: They claim to not have sinned. (10).
 - This last step is a complete denial of sin. This would completely deny the existence of sin. John argues that one cannot rightly look to Jesus and deny sin. His moral righteousness shines a light on my wickedness.

APPLY

- It is important to see sin. A proper understand of God leads to seeing His righteousness and man's natural unrighteousness. My relationship with God affects my morality. True relationship with God fundamentally changes my life.
- This leads me to ask: where am I being changed by God? John's argument is that as a believer, I am continually changing through the work of Jesus. Right now, I look towards my life and see God working in my view of others. Before Him, I would quickly view others as foolish. After Christ, I see my wrong thinking. I see now that everyone has natural pull to wrong thinking. Because of this, I am more patient with people I disagree with because He has graciously shown me areas where I am wrong.

RESPOND

- Father thank you for delivering me from the chains of my sin.
- Help me to look towards you in all areas of my life.
- Help me see areas of sin that I need to hand over to you.
- Help me to better reflect Your light to others.