

“Light and Lies”

1 John 1:5-10

INTRO: CONTEXT IN 1 JOHN

- v.1-2: John testified that the “word of life” was manifested (revealed) to him and the other apostles.
- v.3-4: John proclaimed this message so they could have *fellowship* (true relationship) w/ God & His people.
- In v.5-10, John addresses the obstacle to having true relationship with God and His people: SIN.

THE STANDARD FOR SEEING SIN: GOD IS LIGHT. v.5

1. **God is light—there is no darkness in Him.** Ref. 1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 1:16

2. **In the Bible, light has connotations of righteousness & holiness.** Eph 5:7-12; Rom 13:11-14; 1 Thes 5:4-8

3. **In the Bible, light has connotations of truth & revelation.** Ps 119:105; Lk 2:32; Acts 13:47; 2 Pet 1:19

→ **The starting point for measuring sin is God Himself: *God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.***

- Sin can only be rightly understood with a right view of God’s character. (Revealed in Exodus 20:1-17)
- Sin will not be rightly understood if we begin by comparing ourselves to other people. 2 Cor 10:12

→ **Example of a plumb line...**

Summary: Man’s # 1 problem, according to the Bible: sin and its consequences.

Man’s # 2 problem? Believing lies about man’s # 1 problem. (hiding, minimizing, or denying sin)

THREE LIES ABOUT SIN. v.6-10

1. **Lie #1: “It doesn’t matter how I live.” v.6-7**

‘The Lie of the Antinomian’

- This lie consists of saying we have fellowship with God while we continue to “walk in darkness.”
-It applies to the one who says he is a Christian, but continues to live in sin.
- The truth is: You’re lying! You’re not practicing the truth.
-Either you don’t truly have fellowship with God (i.e. you’re not truly born again, a Christian)...
-Or, you *are* born again, but you’re living a lie (i.e. not living according to who you really are in Christ).
- John points to the remedy in v.7: Walk in the Light (continually walk in the light; a *lifestyle* of truth)

2. **Lie #2: “Sin is no longer a problem for me.” v.8-9**

‘The Lie of the Legalist’

- This lie consists in saying we have no sin.
-It applies to the so-called religious perfectionists—those who say they no longer commit sin. Mark 10:17f
-Those (including Xns) who think they are “above” or not vulnerable to certain sins. Prov 16:18; Gal 6:1
- The truth is: You’re lying to yourself! The truth is not in you. You are just as susceptible to any sin.
- John points to the remedy in v.9: Confess your sins.

Proverbs 28:13: He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses & renounces them finds mercy.

3. **Lie #3: “Sin has never been a problem for me.” v.10**

‘The Lie of the Humanist’

- This lie consists in saying we have not sinned. I.e. man is basically good.
-It applies to those who deny the existence of sin (Christian Science cult).
-It applies to those who deny the Biblical view of sin and its consequences.
- The truth is: You’re calling God a liar! His Word is not in you.

→ Note the progression of lies: you’re lying (v.6)... you’re lying to yourself (v.8)... you’re calling God a liar (v.10).

→ Note the remedy: who God is and what Jesus has done for us (v.7, 9, 2:1-2)

JESUS CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

- Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Jn 8:12

1. His perfect obedience.
2. His atoning death.
3. His invitation...

Thoughts from fellow Pilgrims...

“There comes a moment when people who have been dabbling in religion (“Man’s search for God!”) suddenly draw back. Supposing we really found Him? We never meant it to come to that! Worse still, supposing He had found us?” -C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*

“It occurred to me that I would be laughed at by the neighbors, and would be ashamed to see my father and mother and everybody else. Many people like me are not ashamed to sin, and yet are ashamed to repent; not ashamed to act like fools, but ashamed to act wise and set things right. That evil influence, whatever it was that made me deaf to all good advice and to the command of my father, caused me to make a terrible choice. I decided to go on board a vessel bound for the coast of Africa....” -from *Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe

“We all got secrets. I got them same as everyone else—things we feel bad about and wish hadn’t ever happened. Hurtful things. Long ago things. We’re all scared and lonesome, but most of the time we keep it hid. It’s like every one of us has lost his way so bad we don’t even know which way is home any more only we’re ashamed to ask. You know what would happen if we would own up we’re lost and ask? Why, what would happen is we’d find out home is each other. We’d find out home is Jesus that loves us lost or found or any whichway.” -Leo Bebb

“Nobody will get kicked out for having a rotten life, because nobody there will have any life but the life of Jesus. God will say to everybody, ‘You were dead and are alive again; you were lost and are found: put on a funny hat and step inside.’ If at that happy point, some dumbbell wants to try proving he really isn’t dead . . . well, there is a place for such party poopers. God thinks of everything.” -Robert Farrar Capon

A few application questions to consider:

- 1) Why does John begin the main message of his letter with “God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all”? When you tell others about God (friends, family, children), is this how you begin?
- 2) What are 2-3 lies you might believe about your sin? How might these reveal lies we believe about God?
- 4) Do you think it is possible to keep your sins “hidden” and still repent? Why or why not?