

**I. Introduction and review: John tells you how to enjoy fellowship with God.**

**II. God is Light. v. 5**

- A. This is the core of the Apostolic message. v. 5a, 1-3
- B. The essence of our message is, *God is Light*. v. 5b
1. Any expression which begins "God is..." ought to gain our full attention.  
Where else in the Bible can similar expressions be found? 4:8 John 4:24 3:33  
Dt. 6:4 Ex. 34:6 Js. 2:19 John 3:33 Heb. 12:24 Isa. 6:3 Rev. 4:8
  2. Light is associated with God throughout the Scriptures. Gen. 1:3 Js. 1:17  
Ex. 13:21 Ps. 104:2 27:1 36:9 I Ti. 6:16 Rev. 21:23
  3. Jesus is the Light of the World. John 1:4-5 3:19-21 8:12 9:5 12:35-36,44-46 14:9  
Luke 2:32 Mt. 4:16 5:14-16
  4. Light is a fitting way for God to reveal Himself.
- C. How does God's Nature as Light provide the basis for John's teaching?
1. God is Truth. Ps. 139:1-6 147:4 119:105,130 Rev. 2:2,9 Luke 12:6-7
  2. God is Holy. John 3:19-21
  3. God is Glorious: I Tim. 6:16 Isa. 57:15
  4. God makes Himself known. v. 1-3,5a Mic. 7:8b II Pe. 1:19 John 1:5 8:12 12:35  
Isa. 42:6 49:6 Luke 2:30,32 1:79 Acts 13:47 II Co. 4:6 Ps. 27:1
- D. There is absolutely no darkness in God. v. 5c Ps. 5:4 II Co. 6:14
1. This completely refutes the theological views of Eastern religions.
  2. What does darkness symbolize? 2:9-11 Rom. 13:12 Jn.3:19 Eph. 5:11 6:12  
Jude 13 Mt. 8:12 22:13
  3. There is absolutely no sin or error in God! Titus 1:2 II Ti. 2:13
  4. All sin and error is an assault on the character of God. Isa. 5:20 Ps. 51:6
  5. If there is no darkness in God, from where does evil come? Js. 1:13,17

**III. Those living in darkness cannot be in fellowship with God. v. 6**

- A. John refutes three false claims of the spurious teachers. 1:6-2:2
- B. Those who claim to be in fellowship with God should be tested.
1. Start with yourself. II Pet. 1:10 II Co. 13:5
  2. Is the testing of others sinfully judgmental? Mt. 7:1f
  3. Why is it necessary that we test other people's profession of faith? 4:1
  4. We practice church discipline when professing believers walk in darkness. I Co. 5  
Mt. 18:15f
  5. Our modern politeness towards heresy and sin is unscriptural and dangerous.
- C. Those who profess to be in fellowship with God, but walk in darkness lie! 2:8-11
1. Light is the only sphere in which you can have communion with God. II Co. 6:14f
  2. People who reject the Apostolic testimony concerning Christ cannot be in communion with God and His people. 2:21 John 8:44
  3. Those who live immorally cannot be in communion with God and His people.  
Eph. 5:3-11 Js. 2:14f Ps. 66:18 I Co. 6:9-10 Isa. 59:2
  4. Many call darkness light. Isa. 5:20

#### **IV. Those who walk in the light enjoy great Divine blessings. v. 7**

- A. What does it mean to walk in the light? 2:6,11 I Th. 5:4-8 Eph. 5:8f Lev. 19:12 Heb. 12:14 John 8:12
1. Does this mean true Christians live sinlessly and can't be wrong about anything theologically?
  2. Walking in the light means you are open to God's revelation in Christ (and the correction it brings). John 3:19-21 Ps. 139:23-24
- B. Those who walk in the light enjoy fellowship with one another.
1. Does *one-another* refer to our fellowship with God or our fellowship with other Christians? v. 3b
  2. The greatest possible happiness is to enjoy fellowship with God.
  3. Fellowship is according to truth and righteousness. (God's Holy Nature).
- C. Those who walk in the light have their sins cleansed by the blood of Jesus. v. 7b
1. Do we walk in the light in order to be cleansed, or because we are cleansed?
  2. Coming to the Light involves admitting you are unclean and looking to Him for forgiveness (cleansing). 1:8-2:2 Jer. 33:8 John 3:19-21
  3. The blood of Christ fully cleanses all of our sin. He. 9:14 10:19f 8:7f I Pe. 1:18-19
  4. The blood of Christ is the sole means by which sin may be cleansed.
  5. Those who are cleansed walk in the light. Titus 2:14
  6. Those who prefer darkness have not yet come to Jesus for cleansing.
  7. Ultimately, it is God who makes our fellowship possible.

#### **V. Concluding applications.**

- A. God offers hope for those who are still in darkness. Turn to God's light. Acts 26:18 Col. 1:13 I Th. 5:4-5 I Pe. 2:9
- B. God warns those who take sin lightly.
- C. God gives comfort to those who doubt. Isa. 1:18

#### **Discussion questions**

1. Can you find other "God is" statements in John's writings?
2. In what sense is God light? v. 5
3. How is light used in the Old Testament? In the gospel of John?
4. How does verse 5 disprove the Eastern religion promoted in Star Wars?
5. How does John's teaching concerning the nature of God apply to the moral and ethical problems he is addressing?
6. Whom is John calling a liar in verse 6?  
Are there people today to whom this accusation would apply?  
What would you say to someone who claims to be very spiritual (close to God), but is living a vile life?
7. How might verse 6 speak to the issue of church discipline?
8. What does it mean to walk in the light? v. 7a
9. With whom do those who walk in the light have fellowship? v. 7a
10. Which comes first, walking in the light or having one's sins cleansed? v. 7b