



Walking in the Light
Wk. 2 Light & Love - 1 John 1:5-2:2
By Pastor Jody May

1 John 1:5-2:2 ESV

Walking in the Light

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.

Christ Our Advocate

² My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

REVIEW:

Were in wk. 2 of Light and Love, this Epistle that the Apostle John wrote to help the church in Ephesus to fight the lure of false doctrine, while at the same time rediscovering the joy and assurance of their Salvation. Here's what we can seek to understand in working through this Epistle.

The Big Issues:

- How do we refrain from falling away into the error of modern Gnosticism?
- How do we keep from being lured away from the teachings of Christ?
- How do we determine the assuredness of our Salvation?

LIGHT & LOVE



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1st - Light - which comes from Christ and is sustained in Fellowship with each other.

2nd - Love - learning how to treasure God and value each other.

INTRODUCTION:

Hey! Get the attention...

There was this song back in 1985 that came out in the middle of the best decade for music that has ever been and written by a group called *Katrina and the Waves*. It was called, *Walking on Sunshine* and upon its' release soared to the top of the charts and instead of songs that spoke about the doom and gloom of the cold war or heartbroken teenage love it was a song about Hope that had everyone tapping their feet for several months...

Katrina and the Waves – *Walking on Sunshine*¹

*I used to think maybe you loved me, now, baby, I'm sure
And I just can't wait 'till the day when you knock on my door
Now every time I go for the mailbox, gotta hold myself down
'Cause I just can't wait 'till you write me you're coming around*

The song is about a young lady that has supposedly discovered that she is for sure loved, she has found what she has always wanted, she will get her prince charming, and until the day he comes through the door she's walking on Sunshine.

You! Indicate that the subject matter at hand applies to the listeners...

It reminds me a lot about the message of the *Song of Solomon* which are feelings of the longing for love that will come which is the projected futuristic picture of what it is like for the church **when our Savior returns**. We are to be the people that walk around feeling as if we have to hold ourselves down,

¹ <https://genius.com/Katrina-and-the-waves-walking-on-sunshine-lyrics>



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because Jesus will return, and we live in the Hope, the sure confidence knowing it will happen ([Rom. 8:24-25](#))

Look! Give some information about the subject to come...

The sermon today *Walking in the Light* is a message of what John was describing for the church, that's us, what life is to look light everyday as we walk in the light of *God's revealing Truth* ([John 1:11](#)). We are to be sustained by this walk, we are to be uplifted by this walk, we are to be protected by this walk, and we are to be preserved by this walk. This spiritual exercise of Walking in the Light is the way we **activate both resources** that John is telling us about: Light and Love. Walking in the Light is the way we endure to the end.

I also need to say right up front, to keep us from being confused that the concept of Walking in the text is different than how we would use the word. You can trade that word out for the word **ABIDE**. Think of the 23 Psalm, "*Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of death I will fear no evil.*" Abiding in the Truth of God, means wherever you go His presence is always there. **You don't travel Home to be safe Home goes with you...**

Do! Tell them what they are expected to do as a result of hearing the sermon...

Today, we are going to explore what does it mean to Walk in the Light, to Abide in God's Truth at all times. You and I desperately need this in our lives today because let me tell you what culture told you was truth this week:

- That homosexual people, men to be exact, will be actively seeking to convert our children contrary to what we teach or believe.²
- Defunding the Department of Homeland Security with opening borders is the right thing to do.³

² <https://rumble.com/vjl3hf-sf-gay-mens-choir-literally-sings-were-coming-for-your-children.html>

³ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/tlaib-defunding-ice-cbp-dhs-terrorize-migrants>



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- That the Denial of Evolution is a form of White Supremacy.⁴

Today for us, by adhering to John's argument we will be able to not just stay afloat, but you will be able to swim, to make headway against the flow and tide of culture and its' made-up truths, and along the way we will be able to show the rest of the world what the truth is.

OUTLINE:

Walking in the Light, produces enlightened fellowship, enables confession of sin, and secures the benefits of knowing Christ.

1. Walking in the Light *Imitates* God the *Father*.

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.

A. Explanation:

Message we have heard - Again, we see this appealing to Apostolic authority. Remember John is speaking as the last remnant of the old school, the last man standing of the Apostles. What he's about to tell us he's experienced; it is learned by him walking in the "Light".

God is Light, John is sharing with us what he has learned about God in the life of Jesus, that 'LIGHT' is a **characteristic of God**. It is not that God is a part of light, but that God is that which **produces Light**. God is the being who brings understanding, clarity, knowability to all things, **TRUTH** without Him you are still in the dark.

Now here's where it gets interesting: John is beginning here to battle the lure of being called into believing what the world wants people to believe. Do you remember the people from [2:19](#) last week, those that walked away? He is

⁴ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/denial-of-evolution-is-a-form-of-white-supremacy/?fbclid=IwAR1a1bszOW6rROy2hh8nHqvp0YQiT9anv5-On9jrDFIbCuz00Kmuclj7QFM>



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letting you know in the text what they were saying claiming to know about God and Christianity, these Gnostics or at least those lured away by the Gnostics.

Three times he tells you what they are saying, 1:6, 8, &10. This is what they are saying here in v.6:

⁶If we **say** we have **fellowship** with him while we **walk** in darkness, **we lie** and do not **practice** the truth.

If one chooses to walk in darkness, outside of God's presence, to stay in sin, you are Liar, and you do not practice truth. Let's put the reverse spin on this, if you are not totally truthful about your actions, about what you are trying to achieve in life, then **you practice deceit**. There are no white lies, there is no withholding truth even to get a more desirable outcome in Christianity.

B. Illustration:

Jesus told the Pharisees that their father was Satan for he is the father of lies.

John 8:44 ESV

⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The point is the Pharisees thought they were the best of people, but **they were the worst**, because they **denied the Truth** that Jesus taught, they didn't listen to His rebuke, they wouldn't help their true master.

For us - It doesn't matter how good your motives are, it doesn't matter how good a patriot you seem to be, it doesn't matter if you pay your taxes, get your shots, pledge allegiance to the flag or not, serve in the military, protest against injustice, fight for or against CRT in the school systems, if you do not adhere yourself to God's revelation of Jesus Christ in the scripture and obey when He calls you to repent you are a liar and you walk in darkness in sin and Hell is where you are headed...



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C. Argumentation:

Walking in the light **IMITATES** God, it **doesn't stand** for **dishonesty**. Abiding with God means we **stand apart** from how the world is **dishonest** in their dealings. Walking in Light means we have no darkness within us.

I will make this one example very clear, it means if I believe Racism is a byproduct of a corrupt system pointed out by Critical Race Theory (CRT) and I believe that CRT and the study of intersectionality shows that if one is white then they are inherently racist, then when I go appealing to the church to get them to side with me on calling the death of George Floyd as a Racist act, and I **do not explain my definition of Racism**, and my brother and sisters agree to my defining of that death as a Racist sin without telling them how I define it, then I am in turn a LIAR, I walk in DARKNESS, and I do not practice the TRUTH.

This lying separates us from one another and it seeks to dismember the church, but Walking in the Light brings us closer together:

2. Walking in the Light *Initiates* fellowship with each other.

⁷ 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.

Abiding in the Light staying away from falsehood we can have fellowship with one another, **Walking/abiding in the Light/Truth is the *initiating of divine Grace-based relationships***. Choosing to abide in the Light *walks you in the front door of church membership* and it *protects* you while you are in it.

A. Illustration:

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



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The church in Jerusalem, was facing persecution from the Jewish elite, Rome, and they were still wary of the coming disaster (*day drawing near*) which would be the destruction of Jerusalem. This text reveals the necessary qualities to keep in the light so that you are not chased off from the church, where you are prepared to withstand the disasters, sometimes brought on by ignorant and sinful people. **Walking in the light according to Hebrews initiates 2 great things in our Christian/Church fellowship:**

- Walking in the light initiates the needed encouragement from your church family.
- Walking in the light initiates community that doesn't neglect meeting together.

A new study was released this week⁵ sharing some scary statistics about the desire for people to fellowship, post-COVID and I have to tell you it is disturbing.

This trend is particularly concerning for young people. As we note in our recent report: “Young adults and singles are unique to the extent that they rely on friends for emotional and personal support.” But **young men today are for more reliant on their parents than their friends**. This is a remarkable change in social support. In 1990, nearly half (45 percent) of young men reported that when facing a personal problem they would reach out first to their friends. Today, only 22 percent of young men lean on their friends in tough times. Thirty-six percent say their first call is to their parents.

Unfortunately, this new survey is consistent with a growing body of research. A major national survey of Americans' social networks conducted **last year** revealed that **Americans' social circles were contracting**. Nearly [one in five Americans](#) reported having no close social connections, a double-digit increase from 2013. And young men are faring worse than most: **More than one in four (28 percent) men under the age of 30 reported having no close social connections**¹. A survey conducted by the Associated Press recently found that [18 percent of the](#)

⁵ <https://www.americansurveycenter.org/why-mens-social-circles-are-shrinking/>



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public had no more than one person outside their immediate household they could turn to for help.

Walking in darkness not only perpetuates one's lying and deceit of self but it makes one desperately lonely. Show me a person that suffers constant loneliness, and I will show you a person that lacks compassion, because my friends when you think no one cares about you, that's when you stop caring about others. **Social Isolation is the death of "loving thy neighbor".**

B. Application:

Darkness keeps people separate but walking in the light brings us together. Walking in the Light means **you realize your need to encourage others and your need to be encouraged.** Then besides the pleasantness of community there is another added benefit of Walking in the Light.

3. Walking in the Light Incinerates our sin.

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

A. Explanation:

Here at the beginning of v. 8 John points out another thing that those who have left the church, or are against it are saying, "*we are not sinning*" of which John says then you have no part with God.

Here's what John is **not saying**, which is the Gospel for us all today. **He's not saying that God's people don't sin**, but WHEN we do, God is faithful to forgive, and cleanse us WHEN we **CONFESS (v.9)** it is conditional.... Confession is key to Walking and staying in the Light.

You see, the people at the church in Ephesus were well aware of this practice as one of the keys to Walking in the Light.

Acts 19:18-20 ESV



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¹⁸ Also many of those who were now believers came, **confessing** and **divulging** their practices. ¹⁹ And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Conviction from preaching lead to repentance, and this repentance led to Confession which led to a banking collapse, where the city rioted and sought Paul's and his companion's life. Confession led to a Spiritual **Awakening** in the City, **Confession gave birth to the church at Ephesus.**

B. Application:

Family, here's what I know and what I have seen, what I can attest to, if you are not willing to confess, birthed by your repentance and conviction, you are not going to achieve the release of the burden of sin that you so desire.

What I am talking about is public confession. Yes, God hears your prayers, but what about the people you have wronged?

- Do you pray loud enough in front of your family so that they hear you confess how you were rude to them?
- Are you praying with your kids admitting to God and them when you ran out of patience?
- Do your parents ever hear you say, "I was acting like a brat, I'm sorry."
- Does your family see you actively trying to make more time for them?
- Is there something you need to confess to people in this church so they can hold you accountable and you can be encouraged by their forgiveness.

Walking in the Light is the path to Incinerating your sin, to finally being rid of burden, **IF** you are willing to **CONFESS**. If that is where you find yourself this morning, then you are really going to like point four.

4. Walking in the Light Indicates a saving relationship with Jesus.

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2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John's hope is that by writing this letter, you will not be like those that left, that got use to lying to themselves. But the good news today, is even in the preaching of this Word, His Words, if you hear and repent and confess Him as Lord there is still hope.

John's Gospel here is that Jesus Himself is speaking on your behalf if you feel the weight of conviction. His righteousness, His ability to Walk and stay in the light eternal is the only way God will listen. He is the propitiation; He absorbs our penalties and removes our sins.

Romans 10:9 ESV

Because, if you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

My family, we as God's children by choosing to Walk/Abide in the Light, confessing sin, embracing fellowship, we are exhibiting a gift we have already received: eternal life, **rejoice and know you are saved!** *You don't have to re-say a prayer fifty times or get baptized every time you feel convicted about sin, embrace God, embrace this family, confess your sin, and know it is well with your soul. That is the flow of Christian life, not to never sin, but to be real about it and deal with it when it happens.*

CONCLUSION:

So again, the Gospel of Walking in the Light is this:

Walking in the Light, produces enlightened fellowship, enables confession of sin, and secures the benefits of knowing Christ.

RESPONSE:

Perhaps today you need to take seriously how you Imitate the Father. Perhaps you are getting a little too caught up in man-made philosophies and you need



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to invest a little more on what scripture says about man's condition and the solution found in Jesus. Imitating the Father means loving and enjoying the Son for He is good, keep your gaze on Him more this week and less on the world.

Perhaps you have spent too much time by yourself lately, and you're getting a little too comfortable with no outside voices speaking in your life. Perhaps you have neglected saying something to a brother or sister (encouraging) in here guess what, now is the time to change all of that. You need us and we need you and it is **Jesus' desire for you to be involved with people in this room today.**

Perhaps you have a real hard time admitting when you are wrong, asking for forgiveness when it is appropriate. I am going to put this challenge to you today, if there is something you have to say sorry to in this room today, do not leave without doing so, God is calling you to be real and get rid of that burden of sin. **Confess publically to someone today what you have been** hiding and let's start healing that wound.

Lastly, perhaps you want to Walk in the Light, but you don't know where to start. It starts with you confessing to God, you need Him, you have sinned against Him, you have sin that needs to be forgiven, and you want to follow Him. Then publically confess that to someone today and let us help you in guiding you in those first steps in that relationship with God.

Walking in the Light, produces enlightened fellowship, enables confession of sin, and secures the benefits of knowing Christ.

Prayer

Communion

Benediction

Go in the name of the Father, that is our source of all Light of which we should imitate.

Go in the name of the Son, the radiance of God's Light, and is the incinerator of our sin.

Go in the name and power of the HS, indicates through our Walking our relationship with Jesus to ourselves and our world.