

God Is Light and He is Forgiving | 1 John 1:5-2:2 | 11/17/19

- God is light | 1 John 5:1
 - **Read 1 John 5:1**
 - John tells us that this message that we have heard comes from God.
 - The message that John is proclaiming didn't come from man but is wholly from God.
 - **John tells us that God is light and there is no darkness in him. So what does he mean by light and darkness?**
 - Light
 - **When we talk about someone's character Light refers to moral purity and righteousness and with the scripture it refers to biblical truth.**
 - Ephesians 5:9
 - "for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth"
 - So God is Holy, he is pure and righteous and has no sin.
 - Where God's word is the light of biblical truth. There is no darkness in his word he proclaims the truth which is also holy and pure.
 - **His Word guides us like a lamp in how to walk in the righteousness of Christ.**
 - Psalms 119:105
 - "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path"
 - God's word will never ever lead you to darkness. It can only lead you into the light.
 - Darkness
 - **Darkness is of course sin and anything that is false or a lie.**
 - Romans 8:11-13
 - "The night is nearly over, and the daylight is near, so let us discard the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight; not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no plans to satisfy the fleshly desires."
 - We live in our fleshly desires that is darkness and sin. This is not the life that God wants us to live, as it is in complete opposite to his character.
 - **Anything in the darkness is contrary to God.**
 - **Darkness is anything that conflicts with God's word his truth.**
 - God is light, He is a Holy God that is morally pure and free from sin.
 - **There is NO darkness in God because there is no sin in him.**
 - God is PERFECT his light is pure, and the darkness cannot overcome it
 - John 1:5
 - "That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it."

- **God can never be overcome by darkness and when we as Christians also choose to walk in his light, we too will not be overcome by the darkness.**
- We have fellowship with God by walking in the light | 1 John 1:6-7
 - **Read 1 John 1:6-8**
 - **In these verses John speaks to our fellowship with God.**
 - If we have fellowship **with God**, we profess to be like him. That we have something in common with God and that we are like him.
 - This is our goal as Christians, to walk in the light of Christ which will keep us on a path of righteousness and not one of sin.
 - **In verse 6 John speaks to those that “lie” and say that they have fellowship with God, yet they walk in darkness.**
 - These are not ones who occasionally sin as we all do but those who truly walk in darkness.
 - Those that do not have a relationship with Christ, but who think they know God even though they deny the truth.
 - False witnesses for Christ will certainly fall in this camp, they proclaim “Christ”, but in truth don’t have a relationship with Him.
 - **As John says in verse 8 that if one denies that they have any sin then the truth is not in them.**
 - **You cannot come to Christ and deny that you are a sinner.**
 - **IF you deny your sin then you deny the purpose of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.**
 - **You deny his purpose for coming down from Heaven.**
 - **You deny the truth.**
 - **And we know that you cannot have a true relationship with God if you do not believe in the truth claims of Jesus Christ.**
 - These people have nothing in common with God as they deny the truth claims of his son.
 - **Are there those today who proclaim a false version of “Christianity” or a relationship with God where sin is irrelevant and there are many roads and ways to heaven? That there really isn’t a path of light or a path of darkness?**
 - **If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with God.**
 - **Darkness is where we live without Christ. We live in the darkness of our sins that is in ourselves and that is in the world.**
 - **But with Christ he came to be the light of the world so that we would not remain in Darkness.**
 - John 12:46
 - “I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me would not remain in darkness.”
 - God knew that darkness is where we would remain for eternity without him that is why he came as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **To offer the perfect forgiveness.**
 - Not the forgiveness that was temporary with sacrifice of animals, but a perfect and holy sacrifice that would forgive all sins.
 - If we believe in Jesus we will also become light as he is, therefore we must walk as children in the light.
 - Ephesians 5:8
 - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”

- Since we are now also light (which is pure, righteousness and truth) we are to walk this way in the world.
- **If we are truly children of God we will be that light in the world and we will be as Christ in that we will stand out from the world.**
- The world lives in darkness, we should shine as light.
 - Titus 2:11-12
 - “For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age,”
- **As Christians and being in the light we are truly separated from the darkness of the world.**
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14
 - “Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?”
 - A genuine Christian will continuously strive to be in the light and to show the character traits of the light that we have been given.
 - **A genuine Christian will strive to live a holy life that is pure and living in truth to God’s word.**
 - **If the walk of the Christian strives to continually be in fellowship with darkness, how are they any different from the unbeliever?**
 - We are called to walk in the light and as believers we will strive to do this.
- **What do you think it looks like (practically) to walk in the light of God?**
- **What are the effects of a Christian who strives to walk in the light, opposed to one who tends to walk frequently in the darkness?**
- There is forgiveness for the confession of sins for the unbeliever and the Christian | 1 John 1:9-2:2
 - ***Read 1 John 1:9-2:2***
 - John tells us that God is faithful and righteous to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from our unrighteousness.
 - **We know that Christ died on the cross for our sins as John tells us in 2:2 that he was the propitiation for our sins.**
 - Jesus satisfied the punishment that God required for sin, which was the shedding of blood.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - “He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become righteousness of God in Him.”
 - **With this Jesus made a way for us to be pardoned for our sins, but it is only received by those who believe.**
 - Jesus died for everyone, but if you do not believe you will not receive eternal life.
 - John 5:24
 - “I assure you: Anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.”
 - Colossians 1:13
 - “He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in Him.”
 - **Without the forgiveness of sins there is no redemption.**

- **Without God's forgiveness there is no eternal life, because the punishment for sin is death.**
 - **God forgives even the worst of the sinners (Paul's testimony)**
 - 1 Timothy 1:12-16
 - Even though we may think that there are sinners that God could never forgive, we see that he will forgive even the worst of them if they truly believe.
 - **Does it surprise you that God can and will forgive anyone, no matter their sin?**
 - **Are there people in the world we might think God's forgiveness "shouldn't" apply to?**
 - **So even though we have sinned against God and deserve our eternal punishment of Hell, He has forgiven us of our sins if we confess and believe in Him.**
- **God forgives the sins of the Christian**
 - So, what does this mean then for the Christian who is saved?
 - **Do they never have to confess of their sins?**
 - **Can they sin as much as they want since their sins are forgiven?**
 - **Will God forgive the Christian who sins even though they know it is wrong?**
 - **We have seen what it looks like for a Christian to walk in the light and how they are different than the sinner who walks in darkness.**
 - This is the manner in which a Christian will strive to live their life one that is free from sin and away from darkness.
 - **However, since we still have our sinful nature we struggle with sin and we will at times give in and sin against God.**
 - When we do this, when we sin against God, we are disobeying him and not walking in the light as we are called to do.
 - **A Christian though when his walk is not as it should be and sins, will feel genuine remorse and desire to confess their sins to God.**
 - **Importance of recognizing our sin**
 - Not only is it important for the lost to acknowledge their sin when they come to believe in Christ, **it is equally as important for the Christian to acknowledge their sins.**
 - **Just because you are saved does not mean that you can ignore your sin like it doesn't exist.**
 - God has made it clear that the lost must acknowledge their sin, why would it be any different then for that same person once they received their salvation to now ignore their sin?
 - "Now that I'm saved I don't need to worry about my sin!"
 - **The Christian must also acknowledge their sin, not that it will affect their salvation, but it affects their fellowship with God.**
 - As Christians we are to walk in the light, if we choose not to then this goes against God's desires. We are disobeying the God that we say we love and will obey.
 - We must acknowledge that sin for what it is and confess it to God.
 - **What are the effects of sin in the life of a Christian? How would you describe how you feel after you have sinned against God?**
 - **A Christian will not want to sin, but when they do, they have an advocate with the Father.**

- 1 John 2:1
 - “My little children, I am writing you these things to that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father— Jesus Christ the righteous One. “
- So does the Christian need to confess their sins? Yes they do and we see that not only is the Christian to confess their sins, but that Jesus is our advocate with the Father for us.
- **Jesus (Holy Spirit) pleads our cause for the father and defends us and brings to the father our confession of our sin, and by doing this God will forgive even the Christian who knows better of their sins.**
- **Ongoing process of sanctification**
 - **The Christian life is an ongoing process until we die and go to Heaven.**
 - We will sin and fail, but God will forgive those that genuinely confess and repent from their sins, this is an ongoing process that is part of our ongoing sanctification.
 - 2 Corinthians 7:1
 - “Therefore, dear friends, since we have such promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, completing our sanctification in the fear of God.”
 - **Sanctification is a cleansing process where we are becoming holy and it results in a changed lifestyle for the believer.**
 - **It is nearly impossible that the lost who, when they first become a Christian, that they will live a life perfectly in the light.**
 - They still have some growing up to do spiritually. This process to get us there is sanctification.
 - Once we have the Holy Spirit living within us we now know right from wrong because God tells us.
 - When we sin and **fail we feel guilt** and we **desire to confess and repent of our wrongdoing** and God shows us his mercy in his forgiveness.
 - **By doing this we are each day becoming more and more like Christ and walking the path of light instead of the path of darkness.**
 - **What have been some of the results of sanctification in your own life?**
- **Benefits of confessing our sins to God.**
 - Our guilt is removed when we confess our sins
 - **When we sin as a Christian do we feel indifferent? Do we not feel anything at all when we disobey God?**
 - **Sin will make us feel guilt.**
 - **God does not “guilt” us, but when we sin it will certainly make us feel guilty for what we have done.**
 - **A Christian will feel conviction from the Holy Spirit when they sin.**
 - If we are a Christian, then we will feel something when we disobey. This is the feeling of being guilty and conviction.
 - **Conviction will point out our sin and disobedience and it comes from the Holy Spirit.**

- Because once we have the Holy Spirit living within us we know right from wrong and we are made aware when we do.
 - Psalms 32:3-5
 - “When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy on me; my strength was drained as in the summer’s heat. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You took away the guilt of my sin.”
 - **This feeling of guilt that comes from our sin can be removed if we truly confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.**
 - **This confession is also called repentance**
 - To repent is to turn from sin, to feel regret and sorrow for the sin that was committed.
 - To repent is not to give a meaningless “I’m sorry” to God, that is not true repentance.
 - It is an acknowledgment of your sin but saying you are not sorry and you intend to do it again.
 - **If we truly repent, we are telling God that we truly are sorry and we will turn away from that sin and strive not to commit it again.**
 - It doesn’t mean that we will never commit that sin again, but we are going to do everything we can to not to do it again.
 - In other words repentance is not well I like this one sin and I will just do it everyday and ask forgiveness at night, when you fully plan on doing it again the next day.
 - **Confessing our sins regularly is an important process for our ongoing sanctification.**
 - Where we desire to be clean and to turn from our sinful ways by confessing and repenting by turning away from them.
 - When we do this the guilt of the sin is removed and we have peace.
- **Have you felt the effects from your un-confessed sins?**
- **Describe the impact of confessing your sins before God when you truly repented.**
- We will find mercy by our confession
 - Proverbs 28:13
 - “The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.”
 - **Notice the word “renounces” we must repent and turn away from the sin.**
 - This is not well I’ll just sin all day all I want and then just make sure I confess them.
 - If you have no true remorse for the sin then you don’t truly repent or renounce them.
 - God is not going to show you mercy for that.
- **We must walk in the light of Christ so that the darkness does not overtake us.**

- We know that God is gracious and willing to forgive us of our sin, but we should NOT live life thinking that hey if I sin its OK because God will forgive me, we instead should live life striving to never sin.
- If we walk in the light of Christ we will never walk in the darkness. Because one who lives a life of righteousness in the truth and obedience to Christ will not sin.
- This is the life we as Christians should strive to live, not one of indifference of our sin but one that intentionally choose to live in the light.
- John 8:12
 - “Then Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”
- By walking in this light we will always find the right path and will never stray into sin.
- John 12:35
 - “Jesus answered, “The light will be with you only a little longer. Walk while you have the light so that darkness doesn’t overtake you. The one who walks in darkness doesn’t know where he’s going.”
- While we may not have the light in a physical presence of Jesus as he was here on the Earth before, we do have the light living within our hearts.
- We should walk in the light of Christ so that the darkness, the evil and sin of the world does not overtake us.
- If we do this we can truly then overcome our sins and live out the repentance for our sins.