

WALKING WITH THE LIGHT ON

1 John 1:5-2:2

“Elephant in the living room”

Everyone knows it's there.

Nobody wants to talk about it.

There's an elephant in *OUR* living room!

There's sin in our lives.

Everyone wants to keep it a secret.

People are struggling with the secrets they're hiding!

We're afraid people will find out what we're *really* like!

Because if you could see what's on the inside,
you wouldn't like me!

Hidden sin gets in the way of fellowship—both with God and with each other.

From Adam and Eve to the present (Achan, Saul, David)

People are hiding (pastors and others!)

We know it's not supposed to be like this!

John writes his 1st letter to tell us how to enjoy life more, through fellowship —with God & with one another.

Written to Christians who weren't enjoying life.

Frustrated because life wasn't the way it's supposed to be.

John has observed many professing believers who claim to know God but whose lives don't give evidence of what they profess.

He seems to believe most are truly saved but not enjoying fellowship.

They're not living holy lives

They're imitating the world and its patterns

They're criticizing and attacking one another
Sound like anybody YOU know?

We will never experience the true joy that comes
 from fellowship with God while we continue in this
 pattern.

TWO MAIN PURPOSES

1. That we might enjoy real (genuine/authentic)
fellowship 1:3
 – with other Christians – with God Himself
2. (The result of such fellowship):
 That we might have complete JOY 1:4

JOHN'S MESSAGE:

Amos 3:3 “*Can two walk together unless they agree?*”

If 2 people want to go some-where together they must be
 heading the same direction!

**To have fellowship with one another, people must
 be going the same way!**

**To enjoy fellowship with God, we must be like
 Him!**

What is God like?

1:5 (5-7) God is light

God is HOLY =>

to enjoy fellowship with God, WE must be HOLY

GOD'S HOLINESS 1:5-3:10

Description of God 1:5

What is God like?

God is light => holy

There's *no* darkness in Him.

Implications for believers 1:6-3:10

Our need to walk in holiness 1:6-7

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

If we want to enjoy fellowship with a holy God, what must we be like?

Fellowship with a God Who is light requires that
WE walk in light!

When can we know we're lying about our spiritual condition?

We can't walk in darkness & enjoy fellowship with God at the same time!

Basic principle of light & darkness:

They can't co-exist in the same space!

Simple science experiment:

When you turn on the light, the darkness vanishes.

Child screams out in the night from a bad dream.

Daddy goes in and turns on the light.

I've never heard a child respond, "But daddy, I'M still in the dark!"

When you turn on the light, the darkness vanishes.

When you walk in the light, the light dispels the darkness.

Sin gets in the way of fellowship—

It separates us from God. —it makes us want to hide!

John 3:20 *“Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear his deeds will be exposed.”*

It separates us from each other.

We even avoid each other!

When we're walking in the light, we ENJOY being with other people who are walking in the light.

When we're NOT walking in the light, we don't want to be around people who are walking in the light!

Two benefits of walking in light: (of living a holy life)

1. We enjoy fellowship with each other. 7a
2. We enjoy God's cleansing of our sin. 7b

Underline the word “ENJOY”

This takes us back to 1:4.

When we walk in the light, “our JOY is complete!”

It's like a long, soaking bath, or a hot shower

–it feels good to just sit and soak in it!

Problem of our failure 1:8-10

Back to reality!

One whale of an enigma!

1:5-3:10 GOD IS HOLY!

1:5-7 To enjoy fellowship with Him, I must be holy!

How can I ever make it?

Our problem: How do we measure up against that standard?

We all come up short. We all fail!

1:8-10 I am a sinner 1:8

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

If we claim we never sin, were deceiving ourselves!

ALL people sin, even children of God (pres.) 1:8

When we're sinning, we can't enjoy fellowship with God 1:6

What do people tell themselves (or others) that's self-deception?

If we claim we don't have a struggle with sin, we're kidding ourselves.

We have to isolate ourselves –not let people get too close.

They might find out what we're really like!

When we come face to face with the reality of our sin is when we need each other most! Yet that's precisely when we withdraw from others!

What's the difference between the statement in verse 8 & verse 10?

If we claim we haven't ever sinned, we make God a liar. 1:10

Rom. 3:9-12, 23

"All people have sinned" 1:10

You'd think that would block everyone from fellowship with God!

What's the solution for that kind of lie? 1:9 "Confess it."

God has provided a means of restoration through Christ

If we confess our sin, God cleanses and forgives us.

What does it mean to "confess" our sin?

I agree with God about my sinful condition, so He can cleanse me

We "Agree with God" concerning our sin.

We acknowledge our sin.

We acknowledge that it's wrong.

We realize that it has to go—decide to get rid of it.

Only the Holy Spirit can give us the power to change.

I must live a holy life to enjoy fellowship with a holy God!

God's solution for our problem—How has God resolved it? 2:1-2

“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. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world

John's desire for us 2:1a

What's the best solution for our problem? 2:1a

Don't sin! Period!

How can we accomplish that solution in our lives?

John 15:4-5; 1 John 2:6, 10, 14, 27, 28; 3:6, 24

When we abide in Him—draw from Him what we need to sustain our life, HE changes us—from the inside out!

How well do we do at taking advantage of that solution?

None of us succeed 100% of the time!

Therefore God has provided a solution for our problem...

What's God's solution when we fail to take advantage of the best solution? 2:1b-2

God's provision for our failure today 2:1b-2

“if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins,”

God has provided a good defense attorney

who pleads our case on our behalf.

He is totally righteous! *He NEVER comes up short on righteousness!*

His righteousness has been applied to our account.

He's the same One Who *PAID* for our salvation.

His sacrifice was sufficient to cover ALL the sin, EVERY-ONE ever committed—Even OURS—and for everyone else in the world too!

HE CAN HANDLE IT!

How does having a good “defense attorney” affect the way we live?

Does it give us the feeling we can “get off the hook?”—so we live it up?

Or, does knowing what He has done for us make us grateful and motivate to holy living?

What's the solution? To put it another way, and to summarize the whole passage:

God's solution for our sin problem:

(1) Acknowledge our sin

1:8-10

(2) Call on our defender

2:1

(3) Abide in Him

I John 2-3; John 15:4-5

2:6, 10, 14, 24, 27, 28; 3:6, 24

=Draw *from Him* what we need to sustain our life.

HOW SHOULD THIS PASSAGE AFFECT OUR LIFE?

Ps. 119 *“How can a young man cleanse his way?” By taking heed to God’s Word.*

“Your Word is a light to my path”

Turn on the light!

Meditate on God’s Word.

Abide in Him—Draw *from Him* all that we need to enjoy life—to fill the emptiness down inside.

Then we WILL walk in the light and we WILL ENJOY fellowship, both with God, and with those who are walking in His light.

Then we won’t need to hide, hoping no one will find out about the elephant in OUR living room!

We can really ENJOY fellowship with God and with one another!