

Keep the Faith Part 2

Walking in the Light

Mosaic Rockford - Dave Spooner - Jan. 10th, 2016

Intro:

- In the first verses of this book in the passage we talked about last week, the apostle John firmly establishes both the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ. Setting straight, the ideas that either Jesus was not God on one side or Jesus was not human on the other. John was an eye witness to the life of Jesus and gave his life for Jesus.
- John is writing these things so the we would have fellowship with God and fellowship with other believers in order that his joy would be complete.
- In the passage we are looking at today, John deals with the issue of our talk and our walk. . . what we say and what we do.
- John clearly defines the character and nature of God as being completely and fully morally perfect, “God is light”. From this truth he proclaims Christians should live according to God’s pure nature – that they should not walk in sin but walk in the light. And conversely when we do not live according to God’s pure nature, we need to acknowledge and confess our sin to experience His forgiveness.
- Let’s read this passage together.

1 John 1:5-10 ESV

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 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. 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.

- This message comes directly from Jesus – the one that we know, who is God and who is real.

The God of light

1 John 1:5 ESV

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

- Everything in the Christian life must flow from and be built upon the nature of God. Because if we get God wrong we will get life wrong.
- This is the nature of God
 - Three times in his writing John uses the descriptive language of God is _____. In the Gospel of John 4:24 he states “God is Spirit”. Here he states “God is Light” and latter in this letter 4:8 “God is love” . . . which is the most quoted as the attribute of God – the one we most like, because we love to create a God in our own image or create an image of what we want God to be like, this is Idolatry – even those who clam to know God do this.
 - The image of God that most people create is a God who is indulgent to our sin, who will shut his eyes to disobedience, who will always reward and never punish, who will always receive us whether we come in truth or in falsehood, who is blind and willing to be taken

in and imposed upon, who will put up with all excuses and bear all hypocrisy. How often do we as Christians sin, hoping that God will not think so severely of our sin as the Bible says he does? How often do we flatter ourselves with excuses for our sin such as “god is merciful, he won’t be that hard on Me! Surely he does not expect me to always be holy and self-denying? I’m afraid we sometimes rationalize and delude ourselves into thinking that God can be bargained with, bribed, and otherwise bought off concerning our sin.

- The truth is we are created in his image; he is not created in our image.
- John clearly reminds us that God is light – this is talking about the moral perfection of God. God is absolute perfection. He is absolute holiness and purity. –
- in Him is no darkness at all . . . There is no shade, speck, or stain of moral imperfection. In Him is no fault, failure, or falsehood. In Him is no deceit, deviation, or dishonesty.
- Then once this is firmly established, he goes on to point out what people claim in light of what they do.

The claim of liars

1 John 1:6 ESV

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

- I know God, I have fellowship with him
- Fellowship is not what you say it is what you practice in reality
- Your walk must give evidence to your talk – action worlds walk in darkness . . . practice the truth
- If you say you follow Christ but are not following him, you’re not a follower, you’re a liar
- If you say you are a Christian, but you don’t act like Christ, then you are not a Christian
- Christianity is not your profession, it is not what you proclaim, it is your practice
- Two wings of an airplane – talk and walk have to go together
- So now he moves on to give us positive reality of those who are walking in the light

The evidence of reality

1 John 1:7 ESV

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 “walk in the light, as He is in the light
- How do we walk in the light?
 - Psalm 119:105 – “your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”
- Then
 - We have fellowship with one another
 - So you can’t say you love God and not love people
 - Fellowship means deep sharing of things in common by association and participation.
 - And you can’t say you have fellowship with God and don’t connect with believers
 - Love and fellowship with other Christians in the product of love and fellowship with God. Fellowship with Christians is the proof of fellowship with God . . .
 - And sin limits and constricts our fellowship . . .
 - Locks, and protection are there because of sin . . . mistrust

- We are cleansed from all sin by the blood of Jesus
 - Forgiveness by the blood of Christ for our cleansing for us to fellowship
 - “what can wash our sins away, nothing but the blood of Jesus” . . .

The deception of sinners

1 John 1:8 ESV

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

- Sin is an unpopular topic . . . we don't want to talk about it and in many popular pastors don't talk about it. We don't talk about sin we talk about belief, faith . . .
- Because if we talk about sin, that means there is a standard and if there is a standard this is right and wrong and if there is right and wrong there must be a judge rewards and consequences for behavior
- If we break one, we break them all . . . not a plus or minus but a guilty not guilty . . .
- This goes against universalism – sin is a problem – for if God is righteous, it must be condemned.
- So if we sin, we must recognize it and confess it to receive forgiveness.

The forgiveness of confessors

1 John 1:9 ESV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

- If we confess our sins . . .
 - We have a choice to either confess or to cover.
 - We are the ones that are responsible and must take responsibility – so it takes truth and humility
 - This is sins plural – this is specific
- Then He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness
 - Faithful to do so and just in dealing with it
 - We receive a pardon and a clean record

The truth of denial

1 John 1:10 ESV

If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- So if people don't deal with the sin issue, then His word and The word is not in us

Conclusion

- Make sure your talk and walk match
- Confess your sins and turn from them
- act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Mic 6:8
- Opportunity for salvation
- Prayer people / Pray