

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

May 18, 2014 1 John 1:5-9 by Bob Branch

MAIN IDEA: When we live in hiddenness with our sin, we are guaranteed a set of negative consequences. When we come into God's light, being honest with our sins and what is inside us, we find a forgiving and liberating God awaiting us.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out 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, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:5-9 NIV**

- God is light... truth and purity... but more.
- Darkness (code for hidden sin) and God are incompatible. Therefore, friendship with God and darkness are incompatible.
- Walking in the light is accepting the way God sees things.
- Walking into the light means exposing, confessing our sins (darkness)... *turning from them is a given.*
- Our darkness is not hidden to God, but by exposing and confessing it, we agree with God, depart from deception, enter into forgiveness and cleansing, and restore our fellowship with Him and others.

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. **John 3:19-21 NIV**

- If we stay in darkness, we stay in deception, out of fellowship with God, liberating truth is stiff-armed, and our relationships with others are stunted.
- Come into God's light by exposing your sin, confessing it to him and others.
“confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” **James 5:16**
- At heart, light is a person... and coming into the light is coming to Him in person.
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” **John 8:12**

3 PORTRAITS OF WALKING IN THE LIGHT (or failing to):

In darkness, intentionally hidden sin, a costly consequence.

Ananias & Sapphira, Acts 5:1-10 (see Josh. 7)

In darkness, intentionally hidden sin, confronted, exposed, repented.

David & Nathan, 2 Samuel 12:1-14 (cf. ch. 11)

In darkness, Jesus comes, runs to light, extravagant response

Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10 (cf. Acts 19:17-20)

IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS...

1. **RUN to the Light... out of darkness.**
2. **Have someone mature, trustworthy you can CONFESS TO (be held accountable)**
3. **Make a practice of CONFESSING your sin and moving into forgiveness.**