



God Is Light Introduction

# God Is Light    Introduction

- **Author:**            John the Apostle
- **Date:**              90 AD (more or less)
- **Setting:**            Ephesus
- **Recipients:**      Believers in and around Ephesus in the Roman province of Asia.

# God Is Light    Introduction

- Certain teachers with looser morals and fuzzy doctrine have caused division in the churches of Asia.
- John writes to:
  1. Reassure faithful believers.
  2. Dispel their doubts.
  3. Encourage ongoing faithfulness to their Savior.

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- One of the issues John was dealing with had to do with “Christianish” people who were soft on sin.
- They claimed to have some sort of faith in Christ, but their lives were obviously inconsistent with the real gospel.

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- One of the issues John was dealing with had to do with “Christianish” people who were soft on sin.
- They claimed to have some sort of faith in Christ, but their lives were obviously inconsistent with the real gospel.
- Worse yet, they claimed they had no sin at all.
- This may be the worst kind of sin – the kind that the person cannot or will not see and walks in habitually.

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- John wants to sort this out for us.
- His key ideas will be:
  1. Light and darkness
  2. Sin and confession
  3. The blood of Jesus Christ

# God Is Light Introduction

Soundbite:

Walking in the light reveals our sin, but that's how God leads us to confession of sin, forgiveness of sin and cleansing by the blood of Jesus.

1 John 1:5    God Is Light

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- Today even many non-Christians believe that **God is love**.
- They may not know that no one ever believed that until the Apostle John wrote this letter. (See **1 John 4:8 & 16**)

# 1 John 1:5    God Is Light

- What is harder for many to accept is that **God is light**, particularly the way John and others in the Bible define it.
- In our richly tolerant and pluralistic world, sin, like beauty, is always in the eye of the beholder.
- In the Bible, God decides, informs us of his decisions, and invites us to accept his perspectives.

# 1 John 1:5    God Is Light

- Isaiah 5:20 (ESV)

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness ...

# 1 John 1:5    God Is Light

- **John 3:19** (ESV)

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

# 1 John 1:5    God Is Light

- **John 8:12** (ESV)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

# 1 John 1:5    God Is Light

- Acts 26:17-18 (ESV)    Jesus to Paul,

... I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

# 1 John 1:5    God Is Light

- Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

# 1 John 1:5    God Is Light

- 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

# 1 John 1:5    God Is Light

- In the Bible, the difference between light and darkness is not merely the difference between knowledge and ignorance.
- Light is connected to God, holiness and moral purity – while darkness is connected to sin, corruption and forces of evil.
- John agrees with this in his next verse.

1 John 1:6    Walking in Darkness

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- Light and darkness cannot occupy the same space.
- Neither can truth and lies.
- They don't mix.
- A sin-filled life cannot mix with genuine faith in Jesus.

# 1 John 1:6 Walking in Darkness

- John's critics may be claiming things like:
  1. Sin does not matter.
  2. What they are doing is not really sin.

# 1 John 1:6 Walking in Darkness

- It's pretty easy to redefine sin so that if it matters at all, it is only committed by other people.
- "Sin is whatever other people do that I find offensive. It is my standard that counts and they should all know this."

1 John 1:7    Walking in Light

# 1 John 1:7    Walking in Light

- Sin matters.
- It destroys our fellowship with God and with one another.
- Walking in the light is the cure for this.

# 1 John 1:7    Walking in Light

- Walking in the light leads to fellowship – that personal sharing of something special with one another.
- Look back up at **1 John 1:3**.
- Walking in the light leads to fellowship with **God the Father, Jesus Christ** and fellowship with **one another**.

# 1 John 1:7 Walking in Light

- There is no fellowship with God that does not involve fellowship with other believers in Jesus.
- We're all just one big happy family, whether we like it or not.
- The **blood of Jesus** is what makes it so.

# 1 John 1:7 Walking in Light



*To walk in the light means to become increasingly conscious of sin that would hinder our fellowship with God and our fellow Christians, and as that sin is revealed, not to run away into the darkness again. Rather we bring it, by faith, to the God whose Son gave his life that all our sins might be forgiven and removed.*

*– David Jackman, English Bible Teacher*

# 1 John 1:7    Walking in Light

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Walking in the light reveals our sin, but that's how God leads us to confession of sin, forgiveness of sin and cleansing by the blood of Jesus.

1 John 1:8    Self-deception

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- Ecclesiastes 7:20 (ESV)

Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

## Romans 3:10 (ESV)

As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one.”

## Romans 3:23 (ESV)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

# 1 John 1:8 Self-deception

- When we stand before God, we stand before him as sinners in need of forgiveness.
- The beauty of this is that forgiveness awaits us there because of the cross of Jesus Christ.

# 1 John 1:8 Self-deception

- Not admitting that we need forgiveness prevents us from receiving it.
- Thus, saying “we have no sin” is not only self-deception, it is self-deception of a most dangerous kind.
- It builds a barrier between us and God, who is infinitely merciful to humble, repentant sinners.

# 1 John 1:8    Self-deception

- This self-deception is the sin of the Pharisee, who believes he is doing well when he isn't.
- See **Luke 18:9-14**.

# 1 John 1:8 Self-deception

- Pharisees come in many varieties.
- Some are more religious than others.
- All believe they are pretty good just as they are.
- They then look at someone else thinking, “At least I’m not like that person.”

# 1 John 1:8 Self-deception

- Now let's skip ahead to **v.10**

1 John 1:10      Making God a Liar

## 1 John 1:10 Making God a Liar

- This verse is closely related to **1:3** and **1:8**.
- If God's word is not in us, we will never see our sin.
- We will go along in life thinking that all is well between us and God – if there is even a God that we think about.
- We will be **victims of our own self-deception**.

# 1 John 1:10 Making God a Liar

- As we walk in the light, however, our sin is revealed.
- We become more sensitive to whatever sin clings to us.
- That is bothersome, but it is why the apostle has written [The Best Bible Verse Ever: 1 John 1:9](#).

1 John 1:9    The Best Bible Verse Ever

# 1 John 1:9    The Best Bible Verse Ever

- God is faithful – even when we are not.
- God is just. How so if he is so forgiving?
- The blood of Christ is the just penalty paid for our sin.
- See **Romans 3:21-26**.

# 1 John 1:9 The Best Bible Verse Ever



*When God illuminates our lives, we see sin as God sees it and then we turn to him with honest and sincere hearts, wanting to be cleansed from it ... The forgiveness he offers does not merely gloss over sin; rather, it purifies us from every trace of it.*

*– Samuel Ngewa, Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology*

# 1 John 1:9 The Best Bible Verse Ever

- Things don't look as dirty with the lights off.
- Light reveals the dirt.
- Keep this verse handy and come to God often with confession, fully expecting forgiveness of sin.

God Is Light    Conclusions

# God Is Light      Conclusions

- Sin matters.
- It destroys our fellowship with God and with one another.
- If we are going to walk in the light we going to see our sin.
- This is meant to lead us to continuous confession.
- And this is the way to intimate fellowship – both with God and with one another.

# God Is Light    Conclusions

- Key ideas from today:
  1. **Light and darkness** – not two sides of the same Force.
  2. **Sin and confession** – the disease and the prescription.
  3. **The blood of Jesus Christ** – the remedy for our sin.

# God Is Light    Conclusions

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Walking in the light reveals our sin, but that's how God leads us to confession of sin, forgiveness of sin and cleansing by the blood of Jesus.

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- Psalm 32 will make a good closing Psalm.