

**- Order of Service -**

**Call to Worship**

**Welcoming Prayer**

- *Holy Spirit, living breath of God*
- *458, Sweet hour of prayer*
- *426, Nearer my God to thee*
- *A Christian home (tune of: Be still my Soul)*

**Announcements and Prayer requests**

**Greeting**

**Message in the Word -**

**John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #2**

**God our Light, Christ our Advocate**

**1 John 1:5-2:2**

**Sending prayer**

**You may notice we don't pass an offering plate**

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

**- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -**

**Grace Bible Fellowship**

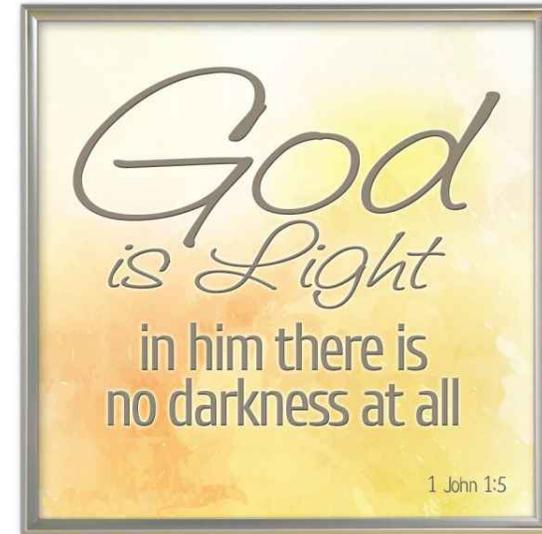
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*“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”*



**- Teaching -**

**Eric Peterman**

**John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #2**

**God our Light, Christ our Advocate**

**1 John 1:5-2:2**

**- August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 -**

## John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #2

### God our Light, Christ our Advocate

#### 1 John 1:5-2:2

v5 Provides is the ground, the foundation for what follows in verses 6-10 and, in a sense, for the whole rest of the letter. Findlay said, "*Nothing has ever given such relief to the human mind as the announcement of the simple truth of this verse.*" The figure of light that John used to describe God emphasizes both *His ability to reveal* and *His ability to deal with what the light of His holiness reveals*. For John, God being light states God's infinitely superior ethical being and His illumination of man's ethical deficiencies. God's light reveals the cancer, to provide the healing surgery and therapy.

V5, In the prologue John asserted that he was writing about things he had heard, seen, and touched. Here he begins with something he had **heard** from Jesus in his ministry on earth, and even after. (John 1:4-5, 7-9, 3:19-21, 8:12, 9:5, Rev 21:23)

In v5 two aspects of God's nature are shown: God as *Revealer* (light) and God as *Holy perfection (no darkness at all)*. John uses these like a surgeon to illumine and remedy **three false assertions**, three cancerous ideas, that arise among believers, in vv 6,8 and 10 which hurt their fellowship with God.

These 3 wrong claims begin with things that some believers were saying, "If we say..." John includes himself in the "we".

It is important to see here what John is and is not saying:

- 1) *Fellowship* in this epistle is a relative term. All believers have essential or basic fellowship with God because they are justified children of God. But for John's purposes here, a claim to deeply knowing God, to being a mature son in a close walk, is a claim to walking in deep, intimate fellowship with Him. *John both tests claims of deep fellowship, and he refreshingly provides the right path for us to enjoy it.*
- 2) *Fellowship here in 1 John* is basically equivalent to *know - gnosis - to know God more deeply by experience*, And John will tell us how to do that.
- 3) When he says the truth or the Word is sometimes not in us, he is not referring to the unsaved, but to the saved "my little children", who are deceiving themselves and not walking in the light! This is a helpful and guiding corrective for us as believers, *not a test for whether one is saved or not.*

V6, If we say... (the illumination of a cancer in us) a claim to deep fellowship must be matched with humble honesty that the nature of God is illumination of ethical defects (sins, foibles, error, moral weaknesses), and that knowing God in these bodies of fallen flesh is to have those things illuminated in us by Him. If we claim deep intimacy, yet don't see and admit the problems God illuminates, we are self-and other deceiving.

V7, But (the remedy/cure). To walk in the light is to humbly and thankfully receive some unpretty truths about ourselves that the light of God illuminates. If we do that we have mutual, loving fellowship with God, and the blood of the Son cleanses us and cures the unpretty characteristics, the daily defilements.

V8, If we say... no sin, that is that we're **not guilty, and have no driving principle of sin within us...** We're no help to ourselves and we get caught up and entangled.

V9, The remedy/cure for daily defilements, and these can bring a real and gradual positive change in us. Habits can be broken. New and godly paths can be trod.

V10, If we say...If we as believers deny the sins that we commit, that the Holy Spirit lovingly illuminates, we call God a liar! A shocking charge against God. When we do that, the Word of God is not richly dwelling in us. We have relegated the Word and its witness to a feeble adviser that we only listen to when we want a blessing. See Hebrews 4:12. "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light unto my path." Christians are to heed to Word!

2:1-2, When we take the remedy of the previous verses, when we heed the Word, when we walk openly and honestly with God, then we have full confidence and trust in the deeply beneficial and healing work of Christ our Advocate, who propitiates the Father, and our *fellowship*, thus our *gnosis* - (our knowing God by experience) becomes a deepening reality. "The unexamined life is not worth living." - God who loves us, is the Great Examiner.

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