

If We Walk In the Light

The biggest little word in the English language is that two letter word "if." 1 John 1: 5-10 is full of "ifs." "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and make God a liar. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins. If we claim to have fellowship with God but walk in the dark, we lie. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another." As We Walk in the Light we brighten the corner where we are!

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Even more, we make God a liar.

We have a problem. We err and stray from God's ways like lost sheep. We follow too much the devices and desires of our hearts. We do those things we ought not to do and leave undone the things that need to be done. The Bible calls that problem sin. Our first reaction to sin is denial. If denial doesn't work then we blame! We even like to blame the devil. A woman bought an extremely expensive dress. When she showed it to her husband, he wanted to know why she was so extravagant. "The devil made me do it," said the wife. "Why didn't you say, Get thee behind me, Satan?" asked the husband. "I did, but he said the dress looked as good from the back as it did from the front, so I bought it." When it comes to Our Sin We Must Claim It- Not Deny & Blame!

If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God has a remedy for sin. It is called confession, forgiveness and cleansing. We believe that we confess our sins directly to God. He, who knows us best, loves us the most.

Four ministers who decided to be brutally honest with each other in their covenant group? "People are always confessing their sins to us," they said, "why don't we confess our sins to each other?" "Good idea," said the first guilty minister. "I must confess that I love to smoke cigars. When I am out of town I find a cigar bar and puff up a storm." The second minister said, "You know, I love to play golf. I love it so much that I occasionally pretend to be sick on Sunday so I can join my buddies on the golf course." "Well," said the third minister, "I have to tell you, I have lust in my heart every time I see a beautiful woman." Suddenly everything got quiet. Nobody said a word. Finally the three confessing ministers said to the fourth, "Come on, we're in this together." So the fourth minister spoke up and said, "My greatest sin is gossip and I can hardly wait to get out of here so I can tell everybody what I've just heard." We are wise to make our humble confessions to Almighty God. God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins. Forgiveness is God's remedy for a past that even he cannot change. God forgives the wrong we do, so he can rediscover the persons we are. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us, said the Psalmist. Forgiveness does not erase the facts, ignore the wrong, or excuse the pain. Forgiveness forges a new start. It is a gift of grace that restores our self-esteem, cancels a debt, and sets us free to be all that we were created to be.

The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness. "There is a fountain, filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains." The cleansing power of blood, I now understand very well. So the Blood of Christ, spiritually speaking, continues to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. It gets the stains out. It makes us white as snow!

If we say that we have fellowship with Him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true.

Darkness blinds us. We can get used to the dark. We get comfortable! Remember the famous words of Alexander Pope? "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien, as to be hated, needs but to be seen. Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face; we first endure, then pity, then embrace." We have gotten used to: war, poverty, greed, pornography – SIN! We ought not to be comfortable with sin / darkness because they break the purpose of God in our lives. In John 3:19, he says, "Light has come to the world, but we loved darkness instead of the light because our deeds were evil." **How are you brightening the corner where you are?**

If we walk in the light as He himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. Let us come to the light.

Light reveals the world to us. Light helps us see. Light helps us grow. Light gives us the colors of the rainbow and the beauty of a sunset. The light of our lives is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all, In him the shadows disappear, In him the way becomes clear, Let us trust in him and not be afraid. Let us walk in the light with Jesus. To walk is to get

going. To walk is to move on. If we are going to talk the talk, we need to walk the walk. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his love, what a glory he sheds on our way.

When you walk with the Lord, be ready for action. It will put us in fellowship with all kinds of people. Is the corner where you are shining with the light of Christ? What sins do we need to confess? What darkness do we need to dispel in order to walk as a child of the light? Let us use this time to confess our sins and draw closer to God so that we may shine the glorious light and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!