

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

" WALKING AND TALKING "

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I JOHN 1 VS 5 - 2 VS 6

INTRO: EVERY FORM OF LIFE HAS ITS ENEMIES. INSECTS HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR THE HUNGRY BIRDS, AND BIRDS MUST KEEP AN EYE ON THE HUNGRY CATS AND DOGS. EVEN HUMAN BEINGS HAVE TO DODGE AUTOMOBILES AND FIGHT OFF GERMS. THE LIFE THAT IS REAL ALSO HAS AN ENEMY, AND WE READ ABOUT IT IN THIS SECTION. THE ENEMY IS SIN. NINE TIMES IN THESE VERSES JOHN MENTIONED SIN, SO THE SUBJECT OBVIOUSLY IS NOT UNIMPORTANT. JOHN ILLUSTRATED HIS THEME BY USING THE CONTRAST BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS: GOD IS LIGHT; SIN IS DARKNESS. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER CONTRAST HERE TOO- THE CONTRAST BETWEEN SAYING AND DOING. FOUR TIMES JOHN WROTE " IF WE SAY " OR " HE THAT SAITH " (I JOHN 1 VS 6, 8, 10; 2 VS 4). IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TO AMOUNT TO MORE THAN MERE "TALK" ; WE MUST ALSO " WALK " , OR LIVE WHAT WE BELIEVE. IF WE ARE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD (IF WE ARE WALKING IN LIGHT), OUR LIVES WILL BACK UP WHAT OUR LIPS ARE SAYING. BUT IF WE ARE LIVING IN SIN (WALKING IN DARKNESS) , THEN OUR LIVES CONTRADICT WHAT OUR LIPS ARE SAYING, MAKING US HYPOCRITES.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CALLS THE CHRISTIAN LIFE A " WALK ". THIS WALK BEGINS WITH A STEP OF FAITH WHEN WE TRUST CHRIST AS OUR SAVIOR. BUT SALVATION IS NOT THE END - IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING - OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE. " WALKING " INVOLVES PROGRESS, AND CHRISTIANS ARE SUPPOSED TO ADVANCE IN THEIR SPIRITUAL LIFE. JUST AS A CHILD MUST LEARN TO WALK AND MUST OVERCOME MANY DIFFICULTIES IN DOING SO, A CHRISTIAN MUST LEARN TO " WALK IN THE LIGHT ". AND FUNDAMENTAL DIFFICULTY INVOLVED HERE IS THIS MATTER OF SIN. OF COURSE, SIN IS NOT SIMPLY OUTWARD DISOBEDIENCE; SIN IS ALSO INNER REBELLION OR DESIRE, FOR EXAMPLE , WE ARE WARNED ABOUT THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH AND OF THE EYES AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE (I JOHN 2 VS 2-16), ALL OF WHICH ARE SINFUL. SIN IS ALSO TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW (I JOHN 3 VS 4) OR LITERALLY " LAWLESSNESS " , OR INDEPENDENCE OF THE LAW, IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF SIN. IF A BELIEVER DECIDES TO LIVE AN INDEPENDENT LIFE, HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY WALK IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD? " CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER EXCEPT THEY AGREE? (AMOS 3 VS 3). NEITHER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT OR THE NEW DOES THE BIBLE MAKE LIGHT OF THE SINS OF THE SAINTS. EVEN THOUGH GOD FORGIVES , CLEANSSES OUR RECORD THEIR ARE STILL CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR SIN.

QUESTION : WHERE DOES THIS SIN COME FROM ?

THE OLD NATURE - (ITS ORIGIN IS IN OUR PHYSICAL BIRTH) CHRISTIANS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT RECEIVING THE NEW NATURE DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE OLD NATURE. THE OLD NATURE IS FIGHTS AGAINST THE NEW NATURE, WHICH WE RECEIVE WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN. (GAL 5 VS 16-26).

QUESTION: CAN WE CONTROL THIS NATURE WITH :

A. **SELF DISCIPLINE**

B. **MAN MADE RULE AND REGULATIONS**

QUESTION : HOW DO WE PUT THE OLD NATURE TO DEATH (ROMANS 8 12 - 13), AND PRODUCE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (GAL 5 VS 22-23)

2. BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD WORKING IN US THROUGH THE NEW NATURE

SINNING SAINTS ARE NOT MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE TO DISCOURAGE US, BUT TO WARN US.

AN ANGRY CHURCH MEMBER SAID TO THE PREACHER WHY DO YOU KEEP PREACHING TO US ABOUT SIN - AFTER ALL SIN IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN IS DIFFERENT FROM SIN IN THE LIFE OF THE UNSAVED -

PASTOR REPLIES - " IT IS DIFFERENT " IT'S MUCH WORSE !

SO ALL OF US HAVE TO DEAL WITH OUR SINS IF WE ARE GOING TO ENJOY " THE LIFE THAT IS REAL. " IN THIS SECTION JOHN EXPLAINS THREE APPROACHES TO SIN:

I. WE CAN TRY TO COVER OUR SINS (1VS 5-6, 8, 10; 2 VS 4) - " GOD IS LIGHT, AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL " (I JOHN 1 VS 5) WHEN WE WERE SAVED GOD CALLED US OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT (I THE 5 VS 5). THOSE WHO DO WRONG, HATE LIGHT (JOHN 3 VS 19-21). WHEN LIGHT SHINES IN ON US :

A. **REVEALS OUR TRUE NATURE** (EPH 5 VS 8-13)

B. **PRODUCES LIFE, GROWTH AND BEAUTY**

BUT SIN IS DARKNESS; AND DARKNESS AND LIGHT CAN NOT EXIST IN THE SAME PLACE. IF WE WALK IN LIGHT, THE DARKNESS HAS TO GO. IF WE ARE HOLDING TO SIN, THEN TH ELIGHT GOES. THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND , NO VAGUE OR " GRAY " AREA, WHERE SIN IS CONCERNED.

QUESTION : HOW DO CHRISTIANS TRY TO COVER UP THEIR SIN ?

ANSWER - **BY TELLING LIES TO:**

A. **TO OTHERS** (I JOHN 1 VS 6) WE WANT OUR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS TO THINK WE ARE SPIRITUAL , SO WE LIE ABOUT OUR LIVES AND TRY TO MAKE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON THEM, WE WANT THEM TO THINK WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT, THOUGH IN REALITY WE ARE WALKING IN DARKNESS.

B. **TO OUR SELVES** (I JOHN 1 VS 8) THE PROBLEM NOW IS NOT DECIEVING OTHERS, BUT DECEIVING

SELF - IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A BELIEVER TO LIVE IN SIN YET CONVINCED HIMSELF THAT EVERYTHING IS FINE WITH HIS/HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

EXAMPLE : KING DAVIDS PROGRESSION

1. LUSTED AFTER BATHSHEBA
2. ACTUALLY COMMITTED ADULTERY
3. INSTEAD OF OPENLY ADMITTING WHAT HE HAD DONE, TRIED TO COVER HIS SIN
4. DECEIVED BATHSHEBAS HUSBAND - MADE HIM DRUNK AND HAD HIM KILLED
5. LIED TO HIMSELF - AND TRIED TO CARRY ON HIS ROYAL DUTIES- IN THE USUAL WAY
6. WHEN NATHAN CONFRONTED HIM (HYPOTHETICAL SIMILAR SITUATION) - DAVID CONDEMNED THE OTHER MAN AND FELT NO CONDEMNATION TOWARDS HIS SELF

ONCE WE BEGIN TO LIE TO OTHERS, IT MAY NOT BE LONG BEFORE WE ACTUALLY BELIEVE OUR LIE. BUT THE SPIRITUAL DECLINE BECOMES EVEN WORSE - AFTER WE LIE TO OTHERS - THAN TO OURSELVES THEN WE LIE :

C. **TO GOD** (I JOHN 1 VS 10) WE HAVE MADE OURSELVES LIARS, NOW WE TRY TO MAKE GOD A LIAR !
HOW:

- A. WE CONTRADICT HIS WORD
- B. WE MAINTAIN THAT WE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE
- C. WE APPLY GOD'S WORD TO OTHERS AND NOT OURSELVES
- D. WE SIT IN CHURCH AND BIBLE STUDIES AND ARE NOT TOUCHED BY THE BIBLE TEACHINGS

NOTE: BELIEVERS WHO HAVE REACHED THIS LEVEL ARE USUALLY HIGHLY CRITICAL OF OTHER CHRISTIANS , BUT THEY STRONGLY RESIST APPLYING THE WORD TO THEIR OWN LIVES.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT SIN HAS A DEADLY WAY OF SPREADING !

SO, IN LIGHT OF THIS WHAT IS A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN EXPERIENCING " THE LIFE THAT IS REAL ?

HONESTY

WHO MUST WE BE HONEST WITH ?

- A. WITH OTHERS
- B. WITH OURSELVES
- C. WITH GOD

OUR PASSAGE DESCRIBES A BELIEVER WHO IS LIVING A DISHONEST LIFE; HE IS A PHONY. HE IS PLAYING A PART AND ACTING A PART, BUT IS NOT LIVING A GENUINE LIFE. HE IS INSINCERE!

WHAT LOSSES DOES THIS KIND OF PERSON EXPERIENCE?

1. **HE LOSES HIS WORD**

A. **HE STOPS DOING THE TRUTH** (I JOHN VS 6)

B. **THEN THE TRUTH IS NO LONGER IN HIM** (I JOHN 1 VS 8)

C. **HE TURNS THE TRUTH INTO A LIES** (I JOHN 1 VS 10) - THY WORD IS TRUTH, BUT A PERSON WHO LIVES A LIE LOSES THE WORD. ONE OF THE FIRST SYMPTOMS OF WALKING IN DARKNESS IS A LOSS OF THE BLESSINGS FROM THE BIBLE, YOU CAN NOT READ THE WORD PROFITABLY WHILE YOU ARE WALKING IN THE DARK.

2. **HE LOSES HIS FELLOWSHIP**

A. **WITH GOD**

B. **HE LOSES HIS FELLOWSHIP WITH GODS PEOPLE** (I JOHN 1 VS 6-7) AS A RESULT PRAYER BECOMES AN EMPTY FORM TO HIM. WORSHIP IS A DULL ROUTINE. HE BECOMES CRITICAL OF OTHER CHRISTIANS AND STARTS STRAYING AWAY FROM CHURCH.: " WHAT COMMUNION HAS LIGHT WITH DARKNESS " (2 COR 6 VS 14).

EX- A BACKSLIDDEN HUSBAND

3. **HE LOSES HIS CHARACTER** (I JOHN 2 VS 4) THE PROCESS STARTS OUT WITH HIS TELLING LIES AND IT ENDS UP WITH HIS BECOMING A LIAR! HIS INSINCERITY OR LACK OF TRUTHFULNESS, IS AT FIRST, A ROLE THAT HE PLAYS. THEN IT IS NO LONGER A ROLE - IT HAS BECOME THE VERY ESSENCE OF HIS LIFE, HIS CHARACTER IS ERODED. HE IS NO LONGER A LIAR BECAUSE HE TELLS LIES - HE NOW TELLS LIES BECAUSE HE IS A CONFIRMED LIAR. NO WONDER GOD WARNS, ' HE THAT COVERETH HIS SINS SHALL NOT PROSPER " (PROVERBS 28 VS 13)

DAVID TRIED TO COVER HIS SINS AND IT COST HIM

A. **HIS HEALTH** (PSA 32 VS 3-4)

B. **HIS JOY** (PSA 51 0

C **HIS FAMILY**

D **ALMOST HIS KINGDOM**

IF WE WANT TO ENJOY THE LIFE THAT IS REAL WE MUST NEVER COVER OUR SINS