

## **“Walk In The Light”**

04-12-15

The Gospel has us find the disciples behind locked doors Easter evening. They were afraid! They thought they were next to be killed, so they're hiding! They had just heard that Jesus was risen from the dead! The tomb was empty! But rather than have this fill them with joy and celebration, they were filled with fear!

Last week we joined in the celebration and proclaimed boldly, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” But did you proclaim that any other time this past week, or did you hide it away until next Easter? Maybe we're no different than the disciples and are behind locked doors in fear!

**Locked doors equal walking in darkness!** We're just like the disciples, when we don't want anyone to know we believe, we're not sure if we trust and believe Jesus or not! But He's always promised to be with us to care for, love and protect us. We can rely on that!

When someone comes to Jesus, they no longer need to be in darkness, but in following Christ, they have the light of life. They're instructed to no longer walk in darkness, but *“as children of light”*, to walk in the light of Christ and His Word. Jesus said in John 8:12, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Open to 1 John 1. **Walking in the light brings, seeing our sins as God sees them.** Verses 8-10, *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”* We have to recognize what sin is. We need to realize that we're lost and can't save ourselves! We need to see ourselves as sinners in need of the forgiveness of the Savior!

Paul says that confession of sin for the believer means to say the same thing that God does about that sin. It's to say we have committed a terrible sin against our perfect God. Confessing sin includes two actions, saying and doing. It's saying we're sorry for our sin and making a change, stopping that sin!

Christ receives sinners! He likes to go out and meet us on the way back to Him. He delights in remaking us and redeeming us! **Walking in the light brings us into true fellowship with Jesus!** Look at 1 John 2:1, *“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”* Jesus is our advocate Who stands before the Father pleading for us!

Jesus lives and does all things according to the truth of God's Word. Believers have a common connection in Jesus Christ. They not only have fellowship with Him, but also each other.

**Walking in the light brings a willingness to listen to and obey God's commands.** To walk in the light is to be obedient to God's instruction just like Christ lived a perfect life. The light of truth is only reflected in the life of the believer when he or she walks obediently according to the commands and teachings of God's Word.

David wrote in Psalm 15:1-2, "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart."

John wrote in 1 John 5:3, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome." When our conduct contradicts the mind of God, we stop walking in the light and our fellowship is broken.

**Walking in the light brings a willingness to love each other as Jesus loves us.** Look at 1 John 2:9-11, "Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

Proof of our love for God can be seen in how we treat each other! Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Love for fellow believers shows the difference between walking in the light and walking in darkness. People see you doing and saying things that the rest of the world isn't doing. As you walk in love, it makes an obvious difference in your world!

Look at 1 John 4:7-12, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us." To Love is a commandment not an option!

**Walking in the light brings a willingness to be bold in proclaiming Jesus.** Look at John 20. When Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, He gave them, and us a very clear mission of what we are to do. Verses 21-23, "Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

You're His ambassador. Walk in the Light! Be different than the world around you! Share Jesus Christ wherever you go! May everyone you meet know Jesus is your Savior and theirs Who loves them beyond measure! He risen! He's here! Walk in His Light forever!