

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

But if we walk in the light

The word walk is a continuous walk and progressive motion of holiness, righteousness and purity. It's not a one-time decision! It's an every second decision of walking in the light (a perseverance, persistence, determination).

Why are we to walk in His light?

As followers of Christ our lives should reflect our Lord. Our character as a believer should resemble God's character in holiness, righteousness and purity. This is a necessity of a believer, when we walk in the light we reflect His light to an unenlightened world.

Psalm 89:15 Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance (character).

He is the light and in Him, there is no darkness.

This darkness describes the character of the life of the unconverted as void of truth and virtue in intellectual and moral matters. *John MacArthur Study Bible*

A believer walks habitually in the light (truth and holiness) and not in darkness.

John 12:35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.

Psalm 56:13 For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

On Saturday we had the coffee connection and Sharon shared a devotional with the little girls. It was the story of Ruth and Naomi. The verse she had them recite over and over was Ruth 1:16 (ESV) But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Ruth followed Naomi where she travelled, made her home, and Naomi's people became her people. Ruth's character showed she was devoted to Naomi.

When we walk in the light we are walking with the Lord as one who is a companion or as a devoted follower. We are devoted to Him and we are walking with Him and Him alone.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

As believers we are truly blessed because only the righteous are given His light.

Psalm 97:11 Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart.

As He is in the light

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

As many of you know, I recently returned from a cruise to Alaska with my husband. On one morning at 6:00 a.m, the Captain steered the ship into Glacier Bay. As we headed into the fjord, it was a bone chilling 34 degrees, the air was crisp and pure, the unpolluted pristine water looked like a mirror reflecting the mountains above and the water was a beautiful deep blue. My husband and I stood on the balcony in awe of God’s beauty of a huge snow-covered mountain with a glacier cascading down into the beautiful sea. I came to tears seeing the majesty, wonder and awe of God’s beautiful creation. I felt so small perched outside of our 12th floor balcony room against this giant glacier. God, I said to Him, You are so great to give us such a beautiful world that we live in, You care for me and Your creation. You feed the birds of the sky and creatures of the oceans. You are a great Creator! Thank you! After a half hour or so of looking at the beauty with my polarized sunglasses on, I came back into the cabin with spots before my eyes. Oh no! It was a migraine. No worries, I took a nap and was fine. With the purest of oxygen and the pure white snow glistening in the sunlight as if sprayed with a glitter gloss, and the brightest blue glaciers the color of Windex, my eyes witnessed something amazing. My finite mind could not even comprehend all the beauty. It was so bright outside, even with my polarized sunglasses on, it was a blinding light. God You are light! You shine even brighter than any pristine glacier or noon day sun! I asked several people of what they thought of Glacier Bay, one said, “Without words!” My husband said, “You are right, honey, you really do realize how small you are in this world.” My words of Glacier Bay was, “spectacular, spectacular!” I could not sum it up with one word. This was beauty on earth. Now imagine the brilliance of heaven. In the book of Revelation, John witnessed heaven which possesses the “glory of God”, the very presence of God. Because heaven has no night and the Lord Himself is the light, the sun and moon are no longer needed. The city is filled with the brilliance of costly stones and streets of gold. The reality of heaven is beyond the ability of finite man to describe. The best thing about heaven is the presence of our Lord and Savior. We will be face to face with the Lamb of God who loved us and sacrificed Himself so that we can enjoy His presence in heaven for eternity.

We are being transformed into the holy image and likeness of God. We are the children of light, as He is light, and the Father of lights. God is light – The source of wisdom, knowledge, holiness and happiness and in Him there is no darkness at all! Sin separates us from God, and if our hearts are turned towards darkness then we have no communion with Him. He cannot come to us if we love the darkness.

1 Timothy 6:16 Who alone has immortality (deathlessness), dwelling (residing) in unapproachable light (luminousness), whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor (value) and everlasting power. Amen.

We have fellowship one with another

Why is fellowship with one another important?

As we walk in His light and with Him we have the benefit of fellowship with other believers. We are reminded that we are united in purpose and fellowship with Jesus Christ. We all have the same thing in common, we dwell in our Lord's light. We are all living for the same ends. Because of Him we have fellowship (partnership) with one another. If we love His people, we will share their joys, and sorrows, we will work alongside one another promoting His cause. When we have true fellowship with one another, we can have true fellowship with God.

Have you been shown God's love by a fellow believer?

There is but one God, and one church; and if all the members love each other, they will love their common God and Saviour. An evidence, therefore, that we love Christians, becomes an evidence that we love God. *FB Meyers Commentary*

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Something to ponder: As you serve a brother or sister, do you count it as a privilege?

The blood of Jesus Christ

Why is the blood of Jesus necessary?

Biblical definition of blood – The atoning blood of Jesus Christ through His sacrifice.

The sacrifice on the cross is the basis of everything. He died for our sins, and lives for our sanctifying. Because He died, we are forgiven; because He lives, we are made pure on condition that we walk in the light. Our sins have been acquitted from all past guilt, words and works. Not only does He pardon us from sin but purifies us. We have been justified (declaring a person to be just or righteous), regenerated (new birth is a spiritual, holy, and heavenly birth that results in our being made alive spiritually), and we have been sanctified (to be “separate” or to be “set apart”).

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

His Son cleanses us from all sin

If we are seeking and living our lives in the light; then we have made a deliberate choice to live in holiness, and the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse and deliver us from the power of sin and death.

To cleanse- Purge, purify, make clean from every sin and disobedience of God's law.

Sin- To miss the mark, offend, trespass.

The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. The Eternal God has put on human flesh. His blood applied to us and releases us from all sin so we are able to stand righteous in His sight.

Psalms 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Revelations 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

Something to ponder: Is there a sin in your life that you think the Lord will never forgive?

The general meaning is plain, that in regard to any and every sin of which we may be conscious, there is efficacy (worth/value) in that blood to remove it, and to make us wholly pure. There is no stain made by sin so deep that the blood of Christ cannot take it entirely away from the soul. *Albert Barnes' New Testament Commentary*

Praise God that Christ blood atoned for our offenses toward God and not only purged our sin but also purified our souls to make us holy and resemble our Lord.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we say we have no sin

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

First, we must admit we are a sinner. There is no use in attempting to conceal our offences because they are all known to our Lord. We cannot avoid punishment by hiding them and we cannot hope for exemption hoping our sins have been unobserved. No one can escape on the belief that their sins are unknown or unnoticed.

But God has given his testimony to the continued sin and sinfulness of the world, by providing a sufficient effectual sacrifice for sin, that will be needed in all ages, and to the continued sinfulness of believers themselves by requiring them continually to confess their sins, and apply themselves by faith to the blood of that sacrifice. And therefore, if we say either that we have not sinned or do not yet sin, the word of God is not in us, neither in our minds, as to the acquaintance we should have with it, nor in our hearts, as to the practical influence it should have upon us. *Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible*

Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin”?

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousness are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

We deceive ourselves

The biblical definition of deceive is cause to roam from safety, truth, or virtue, to go astray, err, seduce, wander.

How can we deceive ourselves?

We can justify our sinful conduct. We can feel as if we have a right to do as we please with our lives and that we are not accountable to anyone-especially our Savior. We can think that we are holy and righteous and in fellowship with God when we are not walking in His ways. We can think we don't have to confess our sins before our holy Lord. We are always to be reminded of the painful truth that we are violators of God's law and we need the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. If we deny the fact that we are sinners, we are not deceiving God, we only deceive ourselves.

Something to ponder: Are we deceiving ourselves in denying or excusing our sins?

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

Galatians 6:3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

As believers, do we still struggle with sin? Why?

Matthew Henry's Commentary says: the Christian religion is the religion of sinners, of such as have sinned, and in whom sin in some measure still dwells. The Christian life is a life of continued repentance, humiliation for and mortification of sin, of continual faith in, thankfulness for, and love to the Redeemer, and hopeful joyful expectation of a day of glorious redemption, in which the believer shall be fully and finally acquitted, and sin abolished forever.

And the truth is not in us

The truth is, God is truth. The Greek word for "truth" is aletheia, which literally means to "un-hide" or "hiding nothing." Our Lord says of Himself, in John 14:6 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Truth refers to the basic fundamentals of the faith; sound belief in Christ, obedience and love.

Spurgeon's Devotional Commentary says: God only acts according to the truth, He will meet us as sinners, for that is our true character; but if we claim to be innocent, He cannot admit that falsehood, and will not commune with us.

1 John 2:4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

2 Timothy 3:7 Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 4:4 And they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

1 Timothy 6:5 Useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

Something to ponder: Does our walk match our talk?

Thanks be to our Lord who had delivered us from this darkness!

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

Why is it important for us to walk in truth?

Walking in the light is also walking in truth. As believers, we are to embrace the truth regarding all sin and have a clear understanding of the truth. We should be discerning, wise, search and know the truth. Getting to know our Lord and Savior and His truths is an active participation (it is a continual process), it's a life of faithfully knowing the truth and faithfully practicing it. To walk in truth is to live a life patterned after His.

Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

As a parent/grandparent, does it bring you joy to hear and know that your children/grandchildren are walking in the truth? Why does it bring you joy?

2 John 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

As the redeemed, we have the privilege to know His truth because God has opened our eyes and given us this wisdom and knowledge.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

One thing we can be sure of as a believer, His truth will be with us forever as we continue to walk in the truth.

2 John 1:2 Because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

3 John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

John's heart delighted in the proper conduct of His spiritual children in the faith. Those who walk (conduct) in the truth (belief) have integrity; there is no dichotomy (contradiction/opposition) between professing and living. *John MacArthur Study Bible*

What is our responsibility as believers?

We not only need to know the truth but faithfully practice it by no longer walking in darkness but in His light.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.