

C. Are you calling God a liar (10)?

Conclusion

Neal Plantinga: “God is perfectly just, holy, and good. According to the massed testimony of Scripture, God therefore hates sin. God outlaws sin, judges it, redeems people from it, forgives it, and suffers to do so.”
(*Not the Way it was Meant to Be*, 74)

Bonhoeffer: “The community of saints is not the ‘ideal’ church-community of the sinless and the perfect. It is not the church-community of those without blemish, which no longer provides room for the sinner to repent. Rather it is the church-community that shows itself worthy of the gospel of the forgiveness of sins by truly proclaiming God’s forgiveness....”

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What do you think about how John began his gospel message (with God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all, and the confession and forgiveness of our sins)?
- Discuss the Plantinga quote above. Can you see how he might have captured the essence of the gospel in it? Explain.
- What are the 3 things listed for what it means that God is light? How are each of these relevant to the gospel?
- In what ways might someone claim to have fellowship with God? What does John say must accompany that profession?
- What do you think of John’s statement that truth is something we are to *do*, not just know or believe?
- What is a distinctive human reaction to exposure of their deeds? Why should the Gospel change that instinct?

Light, Life, Love – the Gospel we heard from Him

God is Light

Jerry Cisar — August 30, 2020

Text: 1 John 1:5-10

Introduction

A. John’s Gospel

- i. “This is the message: God is light
- ii. The promise: eternal life.
- iii. This is the message: love one another.

B. Christian community (fellowship, *koinonia*) starts with God as pure light and is predicated on forgiveness—the forgiveness of God for our sins.

I. The Message Starts with God (5)

A. God is the source of all that is good and life giving.

- i. Genesis 1
- ii. John 1:4
- iii. John 8:12
- iv. James 1:17

B. God is morally pure.

- i. Psalm 92:15
- ii. Deuteronomy 32:4

iii. John 3:19-21

C. God is Omniscient: Nothing is hidden.

Tertullian: "Draw whatever (veil of) darkness you please over your deeds, 'God is light.'"

Bonhoeffer: "For God there is no difference between what is hidden and what is secret. To God, everything is as transparent as light. "For darkness is as light to you," says the psalm. Because God is light, because God is openly revealed, then we must also be in the light and stand revealed before God. That is why, before God, there are no secrets."

II. The Message Creates a Response (6-10)

A. There is always a relationship between fellowship with God, with one another, and the way we live.

i. *Koinonia* is a shared life, a closeness in life, a knowing and being known.

ii. John wants us to know that profession alone does not make a Christian!

iii. Truth is something we must *do*.

➤ John 14:6

iv. We cannot have fellowship with God apart from fellowship, shared life, with one another.

➤ Acts 2:42

v. Then John throws in the unexpected... "... and the blood of Jesus His Son purifies us from all sin!"

➤ Hebrews 9:22

➤ John 8:31-37: We need to be set free from enslavement to sin by the forgiving work of Christ on the cross. That is the starting point for walking in the truth!

B. We cannot claim to be without sin but must confess our sins (8-9).

i. An instinctive human reaction to exposure of our deeds is to claim innocence.

ii. If we confess our sins... To confess our sins is to own that we have sinned.

iii. The promise:

a) The Christian can allow light to shine hard and long on their lives in order that they might find the dark shadows that remain without fear!

➤ We know that upon seeing sin, confessing it, we are immediately set free from it!

b) Do we confess to God or others?

c) God is just to forgive your sin.