

# First John

## 1 Jn. 1:5-10



Sonship



Fellowship



Fruitfulness



1 Jn. 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

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

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.





I. GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN – LIVING AT HOME IN  
THE SPHERE WHERE THE FATHER IS LOVED,

1:1-3:24

A. How We Share the Family Life, 1:1-2:29

1. The Beginning of that Life, 1:1-4

a. Some Tangible Evidence, 1:1

b. Some Transmitted Evidence, 1:2

c. Some Tested Evidence, 1:3-4

(1) Good News, 1:3

(a) How true it all is, 1:3a

(b) How tremendous it all is, 1:3b

(2) Glad News, 1:4





J. Sidlow Baxter noted seven contrasts in this epistle, and he believed a key clause is: "Hereby we know":

1. The light versus darkness (1:5—2:11)
2. The Father versus the world (2:12-17)
3. Christ versus the Antichrist (2:18-28)
4. Good works versus evil works (2:29—3:24)
5. The Holy Spirit versus error (4:1-6)
6. Love versus pious pretence [*sic*] (4:7-21)
7. The God-born versus others (5:1-21)

J. Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*, 6:323





## 2. The Basis of that Life, 1:5-2:2

### a. A Fact to be Considered, 1:5

1 Jn. 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Psa. 104:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

2 **Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment:** who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:





Jn. 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. ...

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.





Jn. 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Jn. 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Jn. 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.





Jn. 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Rev 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.





Eph. 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but **now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but **rather reprove them.**

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But **all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.**

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and **Christ shall give thee light.**





b. A Formula to be Considered, 1:6-10

(1) Beware of darkness, 1:6-7

(a) Darkness exposed, 1:6

1 Jn. 1:6 **If we say** that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Psa. 119:105 Thy word is **a lamp** unto my feet, and **a light** unto my path.





1 Jn. 1:6 **If we say** that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ...

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

10 **If we say** that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**As I believe, therefore I live.**

(b) Darkness expelled, 1:7





i. The common bond in  
Christ, 1:7a

1 Jn. 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,  
we have fellowship one with another...”

ii. The cleansing blood of  
Christ, 1:7b “...and  
the blood of Jesus  
Christ his Son  
cleanseth us from all  
sin.”





## (2) Beware of deception, 1:8-9

### (a) Sin denied, 1:8

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

Jn. 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

...

24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.





Jn. 19:11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

(b) Sin decried, 1:9

i. Confession, 1:9a

1 Jn. 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...”

Prov. 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.





ii. Cleansing, 1:9b "...and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- Cleansing implies the removal of the filthiness of sin!

Psa. 51:17 The sacrifices of God are **a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Isa. 38:17 **Behold, for peace I had great bitterness:** but **thou hast in love to my soul** *delivered it* from the pit of corruption: for **thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.**





Psa. 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, **so far hath he removed our transgressions** from us.

(2) Beware of defamation, 1:10

(a) The blasphemy of denying sin, 1:10a

1 Jn. 1:10 “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar...”

Psa. 14:3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.





Isa. 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Jn. 2:24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, 25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;





<b>Truth</b>	<b>False claim</b>
God is light (v. 5).	We have fellowship with Him (v. 6).
Walking in the light is necessary for fellowship with God (v. 7).	We have no guilt for sin (v. 8).
Confession is necessary to restore fellowship with God (v. 9).	We have not sinned (v. 10).

[http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/htm/NT/1%20John/1John.htm#\\_edn13](http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/htm/NT/1%20John/1John.htm#_edn13)

(b) The blindness of denying sin, 1:10b  
“...and his word is not in us.”







## Conclusion

Psa. 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.