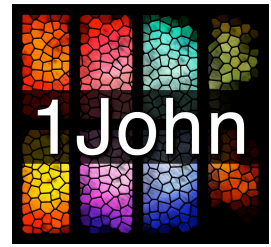


1 John

1:5-10

January 13, 2013

Doug Smith



“Moving From Darkness to Light”

John writes using contrast:

- Love for the father / Love for the world.
- Christ / Anti-Christ
- Light / Darkness

Light represents goodness, purity, God’s nature, but also what brings us out of the dark.

What is spiritual darkness?

- Accepting cultural ideas which impede our ability to follow Jesus and oppose our theology.
- Believing that we are able to live in darkness and the light.

v. 7 – Every believer should desire to live in the light

- This is where God is.
- This is where we truly find each other.

v. 9 – God doesn’t leave us behind. He is faithful and just to remove our sin

- This is the great hope of Christianity.
- No other religion promises this.

Views of Confession:

- Not ever necessary since God has already forgiven our sin.
- A continual action, like a treadmill, always confessing for fear we’ll miss something.
- Some fear their sin is too bad or too large for God to forgive.

Truths about Confession:

- Aids us in self-awareness. Only God is good, and only he makes us righteous.
- It breaks a hold on habitual sin.
- Leads us to a sense of new/fresh opportunities.
- Reminds us of God’s grace nature.

In Darkness we can:

- Hide from others
- Think we can hide from God (and we can’t).
- Think we can hide from consequences.
- Think it does not stop shame, regret, damage.

Our movement from darkness to light means we leave no stone unturned. Not in a perpetual, guilt-ridden life style, but a pursuit of holiness.

Discussion Questions:

- What else does confession do for us? How have you utilized confession in the past?
- When you became a Christian, was the light in your life an gradual advancement (like a candle being push your way) or immediate (like a light switch? Or a combination?
- What areas do you feel we need to expose more to the light? Where do Christians hide in darkness? (idolatry, consumerism, sexuality, etc?)
- How do we define what is light and what is darkness?