

2 **The “Ifs” of Life—What Choices Will You Make About Your Relationship With God Today?**

...1 John 1:5-10...

“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say 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 we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

3 **A quick review of 1 John 1:1-4...Fellowship...**

- The lifestyle we live is made up of the many decisions we make on a daily basis.
- The daily decisions we make either move us toward a lifestyle of *fellowship with God* (walking with God) or they lead to a lifestyle of *disconnecting from God* and others.
- Notice the repetition of words used...If you were sick, what kind of doctor would you like to help you? (Matt. 9:9-13)...

“And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, “Why does your teacher (Jesus) eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² But when He heard it, He said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

4 **If you are going to walk with God, there are some choices you are going to have to make today...**

1. The basis of your choices today will be directly related to what you believe about who God is...God is Light (vs. 5-7)

...The word “light” in the Bible, as it relates to who God is, refers to God being: Holy, The Glory of God, Exposing sin and darkness for the purpose of redemption—salvation, His Perfection, And without sin/evil.

...In verse 6 there is a direct correlation between “Light” and “Truth” so “What is the main value of “Light in regards to truth?”

5 **So how does the reality of God being “Light” enlighten the way we see Jesus as our Savior? (vs. 7-9)**

...Jesus became, for a brief moment, sin and “Light” simultaneously, on our behalf, because of our need as sinners. (vs. 7 & 2 Cor. 5:21)

...Jesus is faithful (trustworthy) to being your “Savior” (vs. 9)

...Jesus is Just (righteous, innocent, holy) as your “Savior” (vs. 9)

Our belief about Jesus as Savior will directly impact our choices today...

6 **How does the deception of believing something false about God affect our lives? (vs. 6, 10)**

...If we believe that something that God calls sin is not sin, we become the measure of truth, and as a result we call God a liar.

...If we claim we are without sin, we are self-deceived, and there is a real possibility that the “Light—Truth” of God is not in us.

...The mark of the follower of Jesus is *not* sinlessness but *awareness of sin*, and this sin-consciousness leads to brokenness and humility, which lead to repentance, and repentance leads to dependent fellowship!

7 **2. The basis of your choices today will also be directly related to what you believe about sin!**

...*What does it mean to walk in the darkness?* (vs. 6-10)

1. “Walk” refers to a pattern of life—true believers are set free from the domination of sin but not from its influence.
2. “Sin” and “darkness” refer to a spiritual blindness. For the Christ follower, sin can be even more deceptive and worse than it is for an unsaved person, because of the spiritual battle we are in—the evil one hates us and desires that we do not have fellowship with God and with one another.

8 **You can choose to deal with your sin in two ways today, and this choice will directly affect your walk with God.... (vs. 9-10)**

1. You can choose to cover up your sin.

OR

2. You can choose to confess your sin.

But understand that light and darkness cannot exist in the same place—there is no middle ground—no gray area where sin is concerned...which means we cannot ignore our sin but deal with it the way God deals with it...

9 **How do people try to cover up their sins?**

...We tell lies to ourselves (vs. 8)...it is possible for a believer to convince himself or herself that everything is fine with their relationship with God when it is not because deception is real...

...We tell lies ultimately to God (vs. 10)...we try to make God out to be a liar and resist the Holy Spirit’s conviction through the Word...

...We tell lies to others (vs. 6)...we want people to think we are more spiritual than we really are when in reality we are walking in the darkness...

10 **What are some of the consequences of not being honest with God, ourselves, and others?**

1. You lose the blessing of your fellowship with God. (Prayer becomes an empty routine, worship becomes dull, losing your joy.)
2. You lose the blessing of the Word of God. (It becomes a burden and it no longer produces a hunger in you.)
3. You lose the blessing of your fellowship with others. (Personal problems escalate, barriers arise, you become critical & alienated.)

Don't be deceived...ignoring sin will always lead to relational consequences and lead to greater deception...

11 **But God tells you to confess your sin, what does it mean to confess? (vs. 7 & 9)**

...Confession means to agree with, to admit, to say the same thing about...which means, whatever God says about your life or current situation, you also agree concerning your life or current situation.

...True confession includes: being specific, being honest, being humble, being repentant, believing what God says about your sin and what He says about forgiveness, and choosing not to believe the lies of our accuser.

Grace frees us to be honest... leading to confession and repentance...

12 **What does it mean to be "cleansed" by the blood of Jesus? (vs. 7, 9)**

...Jesus' blood, shed on the cross for you, covers and delivers you from the guilt of sin and gives you right-standing before a Holy God—our past, present, and future sins no longer defining us...no more shame!

...Jesus' blood, shed on the cross for you, also helps you conquer sin in such a way that you cannot be content to go on sinning...walking with God is personal and it depends on the kind of relational confession that desires fellowship with God...we were made for relationship!

Do you believe that you have been cleansed from your sin?

13 **3. The basis of your choices today are linked to whether you believe walking with God is optional! (vs 5-10)**

"Some people are deceived into thinking that the gospel is optional, in the sense that changes we need to make in walking with God are not urgent. They are deceived into

thinking they can run their lives better than He can. This kind of false gospel is really not good news at all. When we do not respond to God our hearts get deceptively hard. Such a false gospel produces a "christianity" leading to on-going enslavement to sin and its consequences. It encourages lukewarm church goers that believe they are spared from the wrath of God to come just because they give mental assent to God's love for them. Such a false gospel accounts for how so many people can claim to be born again in America yet live no differently than those who live according to other man-made religions of idolatry. God loves you too much to allow you to remain where you are at in your sin. God wants you and your only hope in this life and the next, is walking with Him."

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...If you are choosing to ignore your walk with God, there is no real experience of your sins being cleansed.

...If you are choosing to neglect your walk with God, there is no real peace-filled assurance of salvation while you are living in disobedience.

...*BUT*...

...If you choose to walk with God, it creates a desire to live for God in your daily life, welcoming the changes as you have fellowship with Him.

...If you choose to walk with God, it gives meaning to your daily life as you point others to Jesus through your words and life leading to joy!

What choices will you make today?

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