

DCCYC day 3 Devotional

Seeing Yourself Rightly

Read 1 John 1:5 - 2:2 again.

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

Since God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all, we need to deal with our darkness *rightly*. We need to deal with our sin rightly. In these verses, John gives us three ways sinful people walk in the dark. He also shows us three wrong ways of dealing with sin, and then He shows us what to do with our sin.

First, we live in sin, enjoy it, then act like everything is good between us and God. **“If we say we say we have fellowship (intimacy) with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”** Living in sin and having intimacy with God is *impossible*. You cannot live in sin and say you have a real relationship with God. You can hide your sin from people, but you know that the great relationship you say you have with God is a lie. John is calling us out to stop living a lie.

The second way we wrongly deal with sin is to minimize our sin. John writes, **“If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves.” (John 1:8)** This is essentially declaring that you do not struggle with sin at all. The scary thing is that we may actually believe we do not struggle with sin because we are deceiving ourselves, and we are not seeing ourselves rightly. We need God to expose our darkness. Sometime we choose not to see it, or make excuses because we do not want to see the truth that we are horrible sinners in need of a Savior.

The third and final warning John gives us is the worst one. **“If we say we have not sinned” (John 1:10)** means that we believe we are not guilty of sin, that you are not a sinner. If this sounds like you, you are calling God a liar. If you say you are not guilty of sin, then there is no need for the Gospel. The Gospel declares we are so sinful that Jesus—God in the flesh—had to die for us! If we have not sinned, that means God is a colossal liar: God sent Jesus to die a horrible death to deceive us and convince us that we have a sin problem we don’t actually have. It would mean that The Best News is actually the most evil lie ever told. When we convince ourselves that we aren’t dark and sinful, we make God a liar and his Word is not in us.

How do we *approach* sin rightly and *deal* with sin rightly? First, we are called to confess our sins and run to Jesus. John writes, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** We are called to be honest about our sins and confess our sins to God. Confess means to tell the truth about our sins and selfish desires. There is forgiveness and cleansing! We receive it from a just and faithful God! God is able to forgive because Jesus Himself, our righteous God, lived a perfect life and became our *propitiation* (1 John 2:1-2). This word “propitiation” means the offering of a gift to appease impending judgment or wrath. Jesus, though perfectly innocent and righteous, was treated as a sinner, as if He lived *our* life and held onto *our* darkness, and He willingly offered Himself to die the sinners death we deserve to appease the wrath for our sin. In turn, the wrath God has for

our sin has disappeared, and peace remains so that we can be treated by God as if we lived Jesus' perfect life! That is the The Best News, the Gospel! God being just means He won't punish sins that He already punished Jesus for. And He is faithful to keep that promise for those who trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

We are also called to "walk in the light, as he is in the light" so that "we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." This means that we are called to be honest with other believers about our struggles and sins, not keeping our sins hidden in the dark. Walking in the light is the opposite from all the wrong ways we deal with sin—living a lie by minimizing or denying our sin.

How are you dealing with your sin? I encourage you to spend time confessing your sin to God—be assured that Jesus has paid for it all. Seriously consider who in the family of Christ you need to confess your sins to.