

1) 1 John 1:5 begins by declaring the God is light. One important function of light is that it enables us to see. God’s light enables us to see the truth about our sin.

**Why do people choose darkness over light? (John 3:19-21)**

*John 3:19-21 NLT - 19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."*

2) 1 John 1:6-7 points out the impossibility to be both in darkness and light. There is no darkness at all in God, and if we want to have fellowship with Him, we must step out of darkness, into the light and practice God’s truth.

**What are some of the main ways you can practice God’s truth and walk in His light?**

**3) In every verse of 1 John 1:6-10 there is a condition. “If we” do something, then something will result. Find what each of these 5 conditions are (the “ifs”), and what is the result for each? What can we do to avoid the negative consequences and how do we follow those that would benefit us?**

*1 John 1:6-10 NLT - 6 So we are lying **if we** say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But **if we** are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 8 **If we** claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But **if we** confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 **If we** claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Sin. It is the problem that all of us must deal with. Both because of the sinful nature we inherit along with our humanity, and because of the personal sins we commit in our lives. It is sin that separates us from fellowship with God. But God longs to restore the relationship that sin has broken. And so, He invites us into His light and out of the darkness of our sin so that we can be forgiven, and our sins removed by the cleansing blood of Jesus.

**FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH**

**SIN — ARTICLES OF FAITH 2017-2021 MANUAL OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

5. We believe that sin came into the world through the disobedience of our first parents, and death by sin. We believe that sin is of two kinds: original sin or depravity, and actual or personal sin....

5.2 We believe that original sin differs from actual sin in that it constitutes an inherited propensity to actual sin for which no one is accountable until its divinely provided remedy is neglected or rejected...

5.3 We believe that actual or personal sin is a voluntary violation of a known law of God by a morally responsible person...

**MEMORY VERSES**

*1 John 1:5-10 NLT - 5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.*

## MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

We read the bible to be formed and transformed, not merely to gather information. Reading of the scripture in this way requires unhurried time and an open heart. Only God's Spirit can fully interpret God's Word, and as you meditate on His Word in *1 John 1:5-8*, the Spirit has the opportunity to give you personal insight. We can break it down into four parts:

- reading - This is a reflective, gently paced, one-bite-at-a-time kind of reading. As you read, ask God, "What are you saying to me just now?"
- meditate- Let's be clear, this is not an Eastern religious practice, it is our taking time to reflect on the passage and repeat it in our minds, and throughout our day. Speak it out loud, find ways to incorporate it into the thoughts, feelings and experiences of your life
- pray – a natural product of meditating on God's Word will be to communicate with God. As we find God addressing us directly through His Word, our hearts cry out to Him. Perhaps we feel joy and gratitude, or repentance and pain. But as God's Word penetrates our lives, our response will be heartfelt prayer.
- Rest – as a result of spending time reading, meditating and praying through God's Word, you can come to a place of sabbath-time rest in God's presence. Simply receive from Him by being with and near to Him.

*Share with the group what God has shown you in this week's passage.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – SIN

### *1. Are We Deceiving Ourselves?*

In 1 John 1:8 we are told that by claiming we have no sin we are only fooling ourselves. We certainly aren't fooling God because He knows the truth; everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23) Nobody enjoys acknowledging their sin. In fact, we probably spend considerable effort to hide, ignore or deny it.

***What does 1 John 1:10 tell us is the result of the denial of our sin, and what is the remedy for it?***

*1 John 1:10 NLT - 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.*

***The question is not if but why we try to fool ourselves about our sin? Why do we struggle with admitting our failure to live up to God's standard? What would you say are the reasons we deny our sin?***

*John 16:8 NLT - 8 And when he (Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.*

*Romans 8:1 NLT - 1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*

There is a difference between feeling conviction and condemnation over our sins. Satan accuses and condemns us (Rev 12:10) so that we are afraid to confess our sins to God. But the Holy Spirit convicts us so that we will run to God, confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness and cleansing through Christ's blood. We confess our sins on the basis of God's character; we know that He is faithful and just to forgive us.

***What is the assurance we have in 1 John 2:1 that should further encourage us to confess our sins to God?***

*1 John 2:1 NLT - 1 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.*