

## Study Guide: “Walking in the Light”

*Carter Sanger, April 2009*

Read 1 John 1:5-2:11, then discuss the following.

### Introduction

- Have you ever known someone you thought a Christian but then surprised you by choosing to live an immoral lifestyle? How did that cause you to re-evaluate what it means to be a Christian?  
One of the things John does in his letter is give “tests” for Christians to evaluate their Christianity. This text explains that a Christian is someone that “walks in the light.”

### I. God is Light

Read verse 1:5.

- How does John describe God? Is the light a good or a bad thing? Read the the passage again and note how many times truth or true is used. How does this help us understand the nature of light (and consequently God)?
- What would the world be like if there was no light (or no truth)? Does this change the way you think about God if He is light?

### II. Light Reveals Sin

Read verses 1:8 and, 2:4 and 2:9.

- According to these passages, what does the light reveal? This gives us a test to know whether or not we really do walk in the light.
- Are you able to see sin in your life? What does that sin look like? Sometimes what we see as sin can show us what kind of light we try and walk by. Does the sin you see match what what God says about sin?
- Do you find yourself content in “hating” your brother? For a better understanding of hate, refer to Jesus’ use of it in the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5:22).

### III. Sin Resolved in Christ

John presents what almost seems like a paradox. On the one hand, he writes that if we do not keep God’s commands then we walk in darkness. On the other hand he says that if we say we have no sin (that is, keep God’s law) that we walk in darkness. He presents a quandary that can only be solved by Christ. Read verses 2:1-2.

- What is an advocate? What does this say about us if we need one?
- What are the qualifications for being an advocate with the Father according to these verses?
- If Christ resolves the problem of sin revealed by the Light of God, what is the result? (refer to verse 7). Is this the fellowship you expected?

### Wrap-up

Salvation comes through the advocacy of Christ on our behalf before the Father. And yet, the test to find out if we are indeed saved comes from our manner of living.

- Can you see from reading John’s passage the relationship of grace and works?
- Can you see the relationship of grace and licentious living?
- What is John’s purpose in writing this section (see 2:1)?