

**Message.**

We live in a chaotic world that attempts to redefine love and truth based on feelings, but 1 John reminds us that truth and love aren't ideas we invent; they are realities we receive. John originally wrote to counter false teachers who denied Jesus came in the flesh, clarifying that truth isn't discovered, it is revealed, and Jesus is that revelation. This stands against the modern error of equating love with agreement rather than transformation, or divorcing love from God's truth. By contrast, walking in the light gives us clarity and courage for us to live in a culture of chaos. This light exposes our sin—not for shame, but for healing—and we must remember we can't claim fellowship with God while denying our sin. True faith costs us comfort and cultural approval, but if we start with Christ rather than culture, we will end with clarity, recognizing that walking in the light gives us clarity and courage for us to live in a culture of chaos.

**Prayer.**

Heavenly Father,  
Your light casts out all darkness. Search me, Lord, and show me where I need to allow Your light to extinguish darkness within me.  
Amen.

**Scripture.**

1 John 1:1-10

**Engage.**

John begins this letter (vv. 1-4) by heavily emphasizing his physical, eyewitness experience—what he heard, saw, looked at, and touched. Why do you think he starts with this tangible proof instead of just abstract ideas? How does this solid foundation of who Christ is (a real, historical person) and what He did set the tone for everything else John is about to say?

"God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all" (v. 5). What does this metaphor (God = Light) teach us about His character, His holiness, and His relationship to truth?

When we do confess, what does verse 9 teach us about God's character? (Note: It says He is not just "loving" but "faithful and just". Why are those two words so important for our assurance?)

In stark contrast to God's "light", John immediately describes three ways we (people) relate to "darkness" (vv. 6, 8, 10). What do these "if we claim..." statements reveal about our human tendency toward self-deception, denial, and "hiding sinful darkness"?

This passage gives us two clear paths: "walking in darkness" or "walking in the light". In our "chaotic, dark world", what does it practically look like to "walk in the light" (v. 7)? How is this different from just knowing the truth?

John is clear that we can't be "light" if we are ignoring our sin. He gives a direct, active command in verse 9. How is confessing our sin the proper response to the Gospel, allowing us to shed darkness and experience the "fellowship" and "cleansing" promised in verse 7?

How can we (church community) help one another to "walk in the light" honestly? How do we create a culture where we can practice verse 9 (confession) without fear, knowing we will be met with the grace of verse 7 (fellowship)?

**For these cities. For all people.**