

Series: The Confident, Loving Church – week 2

CDOBC – beginning on 2/14/10

Title: “No Gray Area”

1 John 1:7 ~ February 21, 2010

OBJECTIVE: To help us understand the nature of God, and the nature of the Christian life – to walk in the light.

Announcements

- Welcome / guests – communication cards
- Thanks to all AWANA Grand Prix workers – especially Darrell and Lisa Horner for their leadership and many hours
- Proof-read your church directory entry – visit table in courtyard
- SWCBA Annual Celebration – March 13

(This sermon was shortened from its original due to Teen Challenge and their presentation which took much longer than planned – but was very worthwhile.)

Opening Prayer

The message and nature of God. vs. 5

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”

The message that John referred to in vs. 1 – “That which was from the beginning” – this is the message he now returns to.

One of the foundational things about that message is the person and the nature of God Himself – which is also the nature and essence of Jesus.

John wants us to know who / what God is – not just what God does / has done.

God is spirit (John 4:24) / light (1 John 1:5) / love (1 John 4:8)

No definite article in the Greek – (“the” in English) – means that God is not *the* light, *the* love, or *the* spirit – nor does it mean that God is *a* light, *a* love, or *a* spirit. It means that God *is* light, He *is* love, He *is* spirit. The significance is that these are not mere actions or attitudes that God displays – but they are an integral part of His being. God’s very essence consists of light and love – and He is spirit.

God is light – what does that mean?

In Scripture – and in secular writing, light is often used in a metaphorical sense. Remember, just because something is used metaphorically it doesn't mean that the meaning or truth doesn't apply in a real sense.

In Scripture, “light” means:

Light = God's kingdom

Col. 1:12

“...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Light = truth of God – His Word – God's revelation

2 Cor. 4:4-6

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see ***the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ***, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, ***“Let light shine out of darkness,”*** made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

Light = Holiness – ethical (also intellectual, vision, etc.)

Eph. 5:8

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...”

Philippians 2:15

“...so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God...in which you shine like stars in the universe”

Light = *Life*

In the O.T.

Psalm 36:9 (Hebrew Parallelism)

“For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.”

In the N.T.

John 1:4

“In him was life, and that life was the light of men.”

Light = *Jesus* – Jn. 1:4; 3:19; 8:12

John 8:12

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Christ is not only the giver and sustainer of human, physical life (For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. – Col. 1:16-17), but He is also the giver and sustainer of spiritual life – the life of God – eternal life.

We are called “children of light” Jn. 12:36; Matt. 5:14

“Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light.” – **John 12:36**

Summary: “God is light” speaks to God’s nature, the things of God – basically, God is holy and good in all He is and does.

Some don’t value the spiritual life of God – the light and life He offers through Christ. They are content with the physical life they have and aren’t interested in spiritual things.

Bumper sticker: “One birth is enough for me”
Biblically, when someone has this belief and attitude,
they would be in the “darkness”

No darkness in God – “God is light”

John emphasizes the truth about God being light
through a negative statement that reinforces the positive
statement. “In Him there is no darkness at all.”

This is also a denial of the teaching of Gnosticism –
which taught that an evil or bad god created all matter.
Well, John had taught that Jesus was God and that
“Through him (*Jesus*) all things were made; without him nothing
was made that has been made.” **John 1:3**

The term darkness, just like the term light, is often used
in a metaphorical sense in Scripture – but remember
that the metaphorical use doesn’t negate the truths
being taught in the passage.

Darkness = *Satan’s kingdom*

1 Peter 2:9

“...that you may declare the praises of him who called
you ***out of darkness*** into his wonderful light.”

Col. 1:13-14

¹³ For he has rescued us from ***the dominion of
darkness*** and brought us into the kingdom of the
Son...”

Darkness = *sin*

2 Sam. 22:29

“You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.”

Job 30:26 (Hebrew Parallelism)

“Yet when I hoped for good, evil came; when I looked for light, then came darkness.”

Proverbs 4:19

“But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness...”

Eph. 5:8 (context is moral / ethical living)

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...”

Here’s the great deception that existed in the first century as John wrote this letter – and it still exists today in our own culture.

Those who live in darkness actually claim they are living in the light!

Job 17:12

“These men turn night into day; in the face of darkness they say, ‘Light is near.’”

Isaiah 5:20

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness...”

Those who live in the darkness don’t see any darkness in themselves.

Those who live in the darkness and reject the light of Christ actually see the light as an enemy – as an evil – as a problem. Why? Because it reveals who they are – it reveals the truth – it points out inconsistencies – it makes distinctions and ethical or moral judgments on life – so they reject it as evil and divisive since it doesn’t act in accordance with their goals.

“...but the darkness has not understood it. (the Light, Jesus)”

John 1:5b

“He (the Light, Jesus) came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.” John 1:11

Application

Know / learn the nature of God.

“God is light – in Him there is no darkness at all.”

Your theology does matter. Your view of God will lead you toward behaviors that reflect your theology. When you realize that God is light and darkness is not a part of who He is, your life / lifestyle should reflect those truths.