

HHBC



1st John 1:5,6

GOD IS LIGHT

&

*OUR FELLOWSHIP IS
WITH HIM, PART I*



I John 1: 1-4 & 5,6 & 7,8

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify *and proclaim to you the eternal life*, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; *and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.* 4 *These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.*

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.



1st John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

‘This is the message we have heard from Him’: a direct message communicated to John and the Apostles and then passed on to his audience (and us) the hearers

- Last week’s Verse 3 had ”declare” **apangellō** (Verb: Pres.; Act: Ind); and meant a simple announcement; a simple reporting of facts, or to bring back tidings
- In verse 5, we have a slightly different type of announcement or declaration: **anangellō** (same parsing as above); but this one has a slight differentiation: one of hearing, then passing along from the source; or Wuest: ”bring back tidings to him who receives them”
- So in Vs. 3: it’s an eyewitness telling of the ”things” they had seen, heard and even felt; in Vs. 5, they received the facts from another source, that is, God Himself, and they pass it along
- And here is the message: **God is Light, and in Him, there is no darkness at all**
- Note: God (noun; subject) is (verb; *eimi*) Light (noun, direct object)
- Interlinear: God light is & darkness in Him not is none [Nestle Greek text]



1st John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

‘GOD IS LIGHT’

- Note: there is no article connected with ‘light’; therefore, it describes an essential quality of God, His very nature, and not a simile, as in “God is like light”. It is also not an analogy or metaphor.

Light:

- God’s absolute nature and character
- Represents: ethical, spiritual, moral, immaterial, purity/purifying qualities, God’s glory; glorious, truth, holiness (Wuest); knowledge, life (*In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men*) Jn 1:4
- Darkness: is excluded; not even one bit of darkness in Him (Wuest)
- Light has an illuminating quality; e.g. the Samaritan woman, Christ’s light illuminated her sins and short-comings; but also brings in forgiveness and healing: *“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;”* MAL 4:2
- Paraphrasing J.B. Stoney: ‘The law finds you out and condemns you; light exposes you down to the roots, but makes known to you, forgiveness and salvation’



1st John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Darkness:

- It's Character: evil, sin, Satan, the Sin Nature, death, immorality, shadow, vice, blindness, wickedness, void, doom, oppression, cruelty, ignorance

Used together in scriptural context:

[Jhn 12:46](#) - "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

[2Co 4:6](#) - For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

[Eph 5:8](#) - for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

[Isa 5:20](#) - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;

Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;

Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

[Isa 9:2](#) - The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. [Handel's 'Messiah' Pt. 1 No. 11] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCoFNHQAB6A>

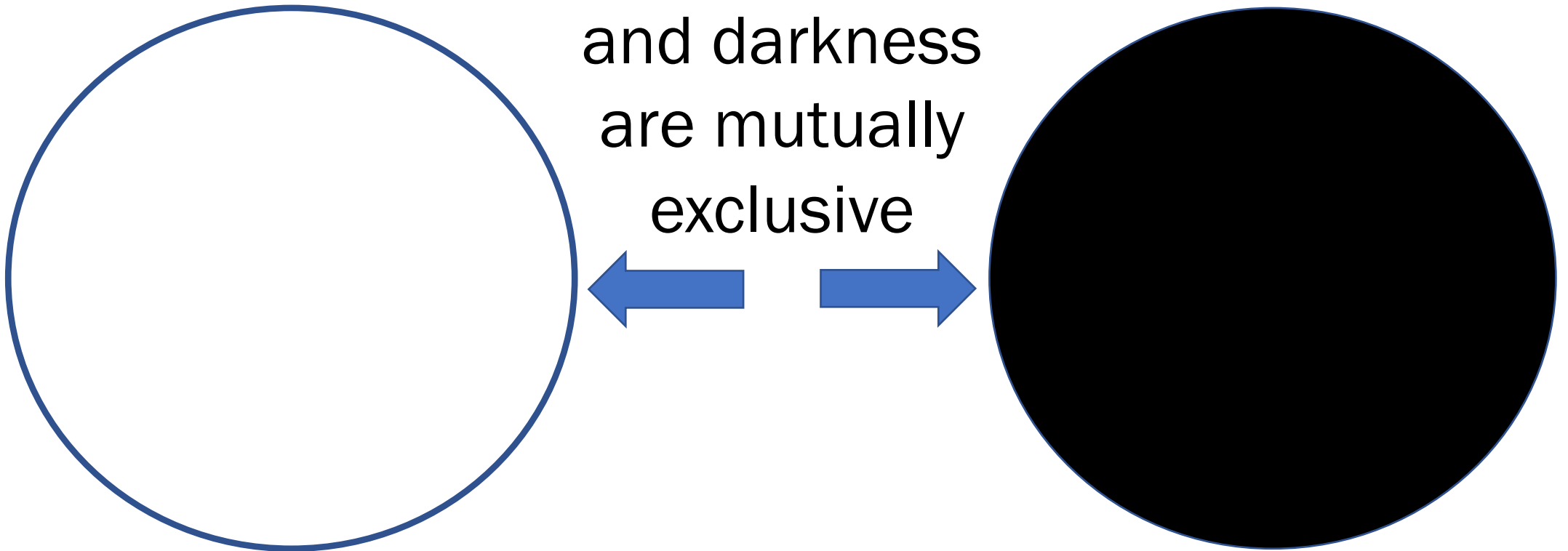


1st John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

God is Light and in Him is No Darkness at All

In God: light
and darkness
are mutually
exclusive



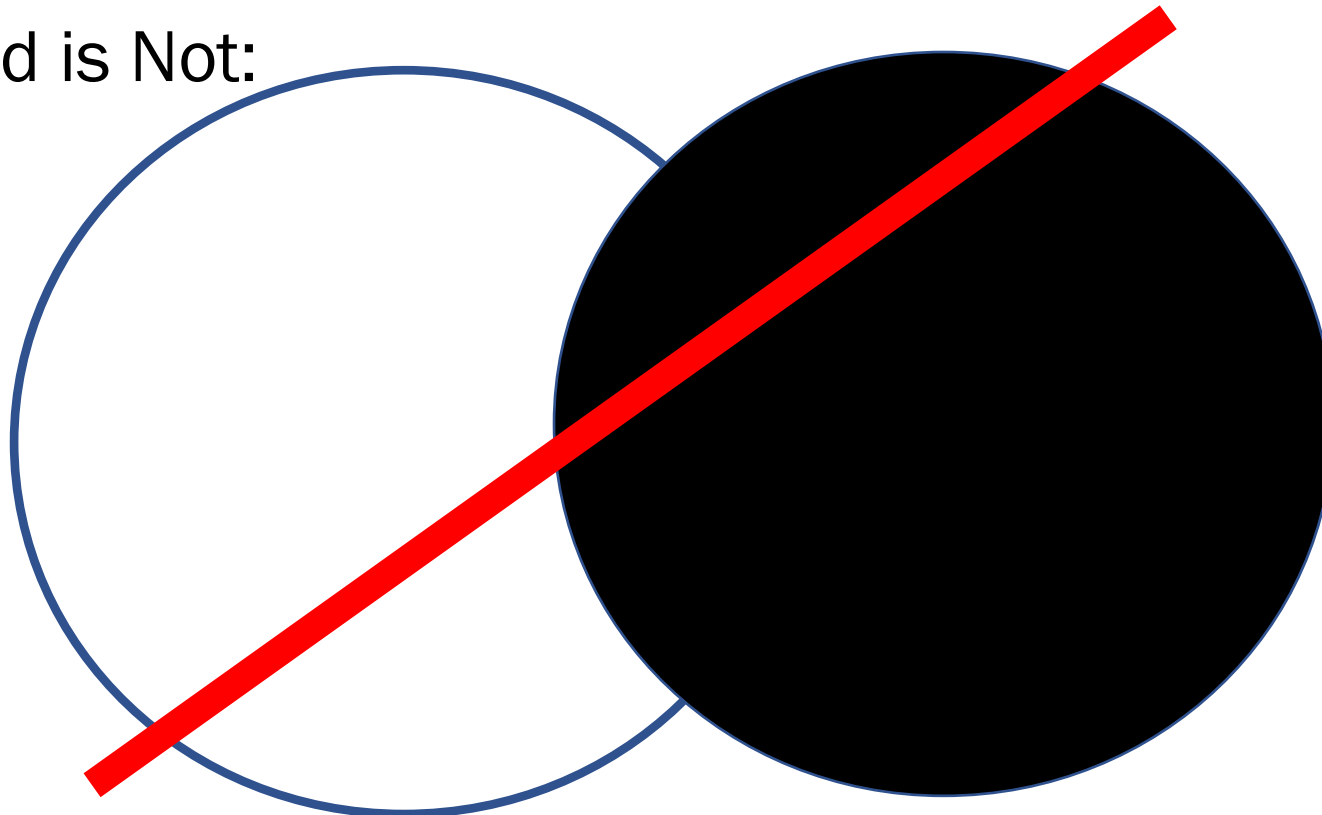


1st John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

God is Light and in Him is No Darkness at All

God is Not:



John: likely specifically addressing a sect of professing Nicolaitans/Antinomianists: who held the belief of being “against the law”

THEIR MODE OF LIVING:
We must abuse the flesh... adherents of his sect absolutely and unquestioningly and commit fornication without restraint.
 [Kenneth G. Wuest]

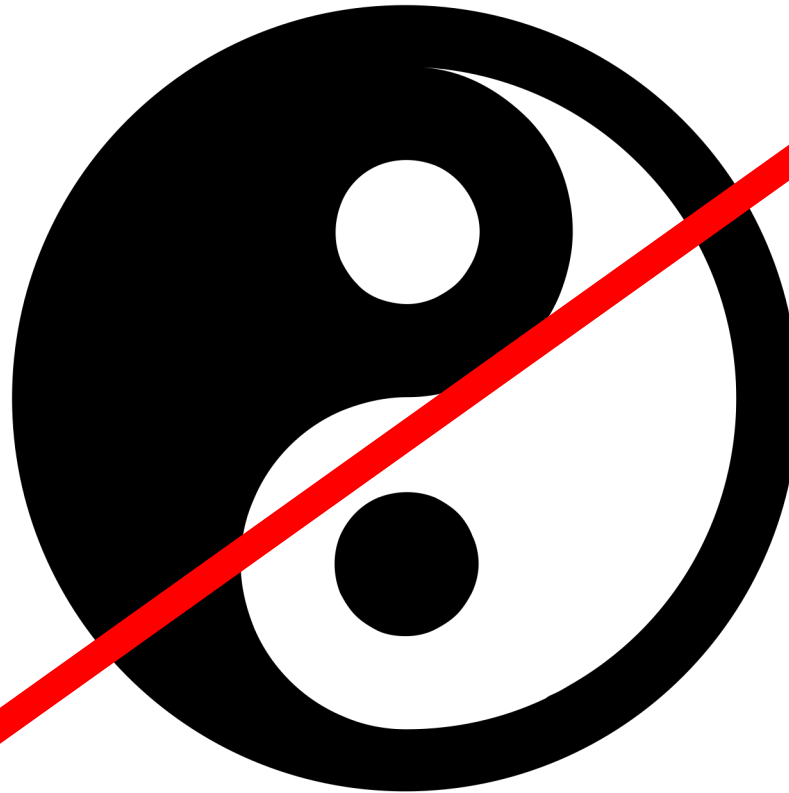


1st John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

God is Light and in Him is No Darkness at All

Nor is God:
As viewed in
ancient &
modern Daoism



They had gods that could cheat and lie, gods licentious and unchaste, gods spiteful and malignant towards men, quarrelsome and abusive toward each other. They had been accustomed to think of the God- head as a mixed nature, like their own, only on a larger scale—good and evil, kind and cruel, pure and wanton, made of darkness and light

(FINDLAY, GEORGE G. FELLOWSHIP IN THE LIFE ETERNAL) NY HODDER & STOUGHTON, PG. 96



1st John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

The Test:

‘IF WE SAY WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP IN HIM’

- ‘IF’ = a conjunction; an indefinite, an uncertain test of the condition.
- ‘WE SAY’ = (Speech: Verb; Tense: Aorist; Voice: Active; Mood: Subjunctive) the mood is a mood of potentiality and possibility; so this is a 3rd class conditional statement; maybe or maybe not....
- ‘WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM’: fellowship is **koinonia** = close association in shared interest’ or ‘shared community life’ (Danker: from 2/20/2022 1st John study slides by Roy Smith)
- Also: *association, communion, joint participation, intimacy, conversation with . . .*
- Review Roy’s fellowship study from last week as this subject of fellowship with God and with Jesus Christ in Verse 6 is directly tied to Verse 3’s “*and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ*”
- SEE THE TEST CASE: if we say we have fellowship with God, yet we walk in the darkness; **then** we are liars— in keeping with logic of the conditional statement



1st John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

More Tests in 1st John:

BESIDES the Hypothetical Test in Verse 6, there are more John puts forward in the letter:

1Jo 1:8

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jo 1:10

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

1Jo 4:20

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

*** All in the Subjunctive (hypothetical/ mode of possibility) mood



1st John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him **and yet walk in the darkness, we lie** and do not practice the truth;

The Test of 1st John 1:6:

- ‘Walk’ is **peripateō** – regulating, conducting, ordering one’s life in a particular manner- in this case in darkness; and very difficult to apply to a Christ-crucified believer who is aware of the deeper FACTS of the work of the cross.
- Ordering one’s life IN THE SPHERE OF DARKNESS; Wuest says this too well to not include here:

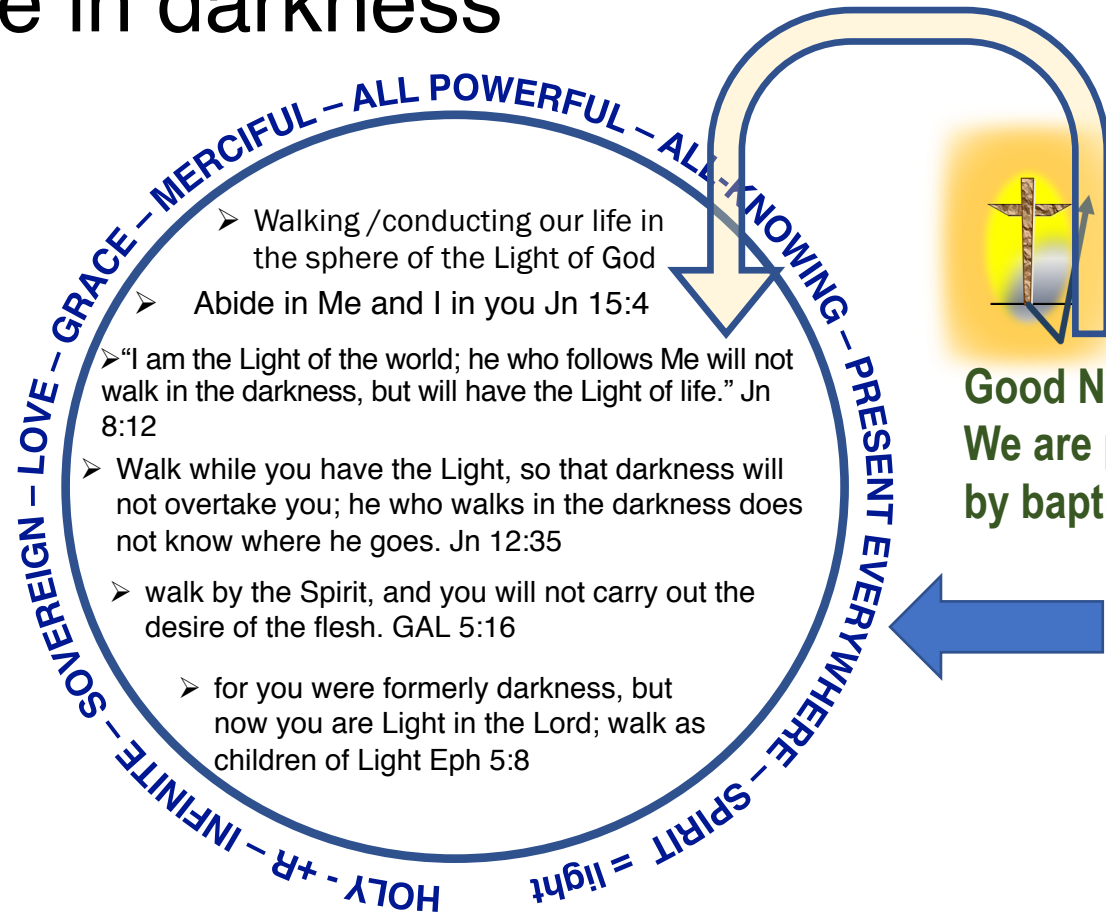
This person is said to be walking in the darkness which is not in God, namely, sin. The verb is present subjunctive which speaks of habitual action. Thus, this person is sinning habitually, continuously, which shows that he is an unsaved person. No child of God sins habitually to the exclusion of righteous acts. We learn that from John's use of modes and tenses as we proceed in our exegesis of this epistle. Furthermore, he walks in the darkness. The case of the noun is locative of sphere. He walks, that is, orders his behavior, conducts himself (peripateō) in the sphere of the darkness of sin. His actions and words are ensphered by sin



1st John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

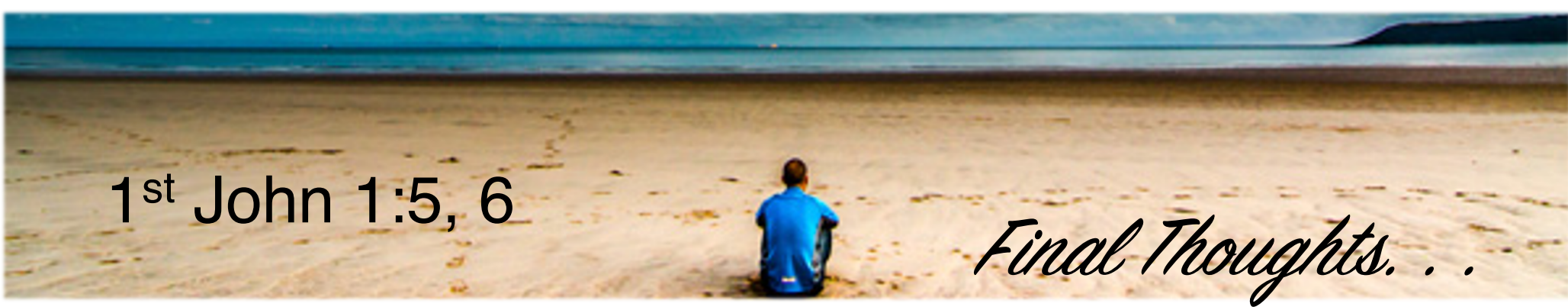
The verse states the impossibility of habitually conducting one's life in darkness



There is no communion (or fellowship) at all between the two. They are diametrically opposed.
F.B. Hole

Good News:
We are placed in this Sphere by baptism Rom 6:3-4





1st John 1:5, 6

Final Thoughts. . .

A lady went into a Bible and Tract Depot, and wished to purchase an illuminated copy of the text, “*God is light.*” The shop assistant examined carefully her stock of illuminated texts of Scripture. At last she said, “I’m sorry, Madam, I have not got a copy of the text you wish to purchase. I have a large supply of the text “*God is love*” in different designs. We have no demand for the text, “*God is light.*”

Herein lies a sad story. One would have thought it impossible to over-emphasize these wonderful words, “*God is love.*” This is certainly true, if this grand truth is held in due proportion to other Scripture truths. But when emphasis on the truth “*God is love*” ([1 John 4:8](#)) is made to such an extent, as to obscure the truth that “*God is light*” ([1 John 1:5](#)), there is something very fundamentally wrong.

- Were God only Love, there would be no hell—
- Were He only Light, there would be no heaven—
- Were He only Love, the heaven gained by such as we, would be without holiness, justice and truth

God is Light and God is Love must go hand and hand in the working of His Eternal essence and Will