

## The Life: Walking in the Light (I John 1:5-7)

Both Apostle John and Apostle Paul made one thing abundantly clear - our gospel message is always personal, "We proclaim Him - Jesus Christ the Lord, fully God and fully man - to you!" (See I Jo 1:1-3; Col 1:28). He alone is the Source, the Supply, the Substance of Life for the human race. Since He, Himself, is the Way, the Truth, the Life, all other ways, truths, and lives will prove to be deficient! Apart from Him, no matter how religious or churchy or well-behaved we are, we are wayless, truthless, and lifeless. (Too many of our man-made religious "clubs" prove that.)

The living way to Life is living together with Christ and with one another. John calls this way "fellowship" -sharing life together in common, two functioning together as one. Jesus is certainly pre-existent and forever God. He is Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, Forgiver, Savior... accept and confess Him as such. However, do not fail to accept and confess Him as the Life of your life (I Jo 5:11-12). We left behind what we had in common with "Adam-life" - separation, sinfulness, death - and embraced what we now have in common with "Christ-life" -deathless, righteous, living oneness with God! This point-in-time receptivity of Christ's life allows for moment-by-moment responsivity to His life. John referred to it as "walking"... walking in the light, walking in the truth, walking in step with our freely given Christ-Life. One lovingly leading... one respectfully following. Living and moving and having our being in an intimate oneness with our Personal Creator and Indwelling Re-Creator.

Why is it we seem to have so much trouble leaving behind our old wayless, truthless, lifeless self? There may be many reasons, but one seems obvious - we have spent so much time and energy working on it... teaching it, shaming it, bribing it, soothing it, improving it, rewarding it... that we just don't want to let go of it, renounce it, repent of it! (Try to find the word "repent" in the therapeutic literature of the day!). To walk in fellowship with God is to be joined to and step out into His Light (1:7). We're not all that keen about being exposed, are we? We're accustomed to the shadows, the false light of self determination, even the darkness of deception. To "walk in the light as He Himself is in the light" is an invitation to live in what is ultimately real and true - His determination, His purity, His conditions for Life, all of which are death to the shadows, to the false light, to the darkness.

Light is not just for seeing, but for living. It is not so much some "thing" God gives us, as it is "Someone" who resides in us. (Jo 8:12; 9:5) If we have fellowship with Him, He Who is the Light of the Word and the Light of my life, "yet walk in the darkness" (1:6), we have a problem! There is a lie - (a "spirit of error" - 4:6) - at work. "If we say" (3 times! 1:6,8,10) we abide in Him and He abides in us, yet have no Christ-life expressions, do not "walk in the same manner as Jesus walked," (2:6) John says that either lying lips or a lying life is at work. Something is "out of step" with the saving life of Christ in us. For when we "walk in the light as He Himself is in the light", our professions and our practices begin to line up, our talk and our walk become more integrated, our lips and our lives start to say the same things. Perfectly? Maybe not. Consistently? Decidedly yes.

All ongoing professions of enlightenment without any corresponding expression of Christ's character is suspect. Instead of the fragrant aroma of Christ around such lives, John detects the stench of Gnosticism. In the Gnostic world, ideas were more important than matter, abstracts than character, philosophies than people. In their world, matter, practice, behavior, people didn't really matter much at all. A simple look to Jesus in the gospels would instantly tell us that anyone claiming fellowship with Him without meaningful, concrete, personal expressions of His Life is in "in the dark" about waking in the Light of Who (and where) He is!

✕

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -  
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*  
13820 NW 172nd Ave, Alachua, FL 32615
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -  
[www.stevepettitmessages.com](http://www.stevepettitmessages.com)
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -  
can be arranged by calling Steve at 352-672-1275
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** -  
email your request to [OICnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OICnewsletter@gmail.com)

## *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



Please inform us of any changes to your address



"It is You who has lovingly kept my soul from the pit of nothingness/meaninglessness." Isaiah 38:17





To believe life is merely about survival or existence is to open ourselves to a plethora of "viruses". The results can vary from a "pan-demic" (=affecting people everywhere) of complacency and resignation to "pan-demonium" (=demons everywhere) due to all the fearfulness. The biggest threat to people anywhere is not "suffering", it is meaninglessness "suffering". Think childbirth - there is painful (even life-threatening) suffering in the process, but, it is purposeful, meaningful and, therefore, women continue to embrace it. (Even doing it more than once!)

The continuum on our current Covid-19 line of suffering is very broad. Some of us have been mildly, if at all, inconvenienced. Some are living with the daily threat of job loss, poverty, and hunger. Some, within the same family, have had immeasurable agony as their loved ones have died. It will do any of us little good to compare "wounds". It will do all of us great good to let our inconveniences, our threats, even our agonies direct and focus us upon the God of all meaning and purpose. We may not yet see or know what those specific purposes are to be. Our thinkers and feelers may still be far away from validating such meaningfulness. Nevertheless... yet... but... a Sovereign, Loving, Redeeming God

is at work. We will faith it until we see it. We will trust Him until it is realized. We will grieve, but not as those without hope - for we have a passion for what is possible because of Who is in this with us.

One final reminder: be compassionate, gracious, merciful and patient with each other no matter where others are on this "continuum". Be to one another all that God has been to us... compassionate, gracious, merciful, and patient - as us, in times past and present, have gone through the fires and been brought through the floods to His glory and for our good.

## *Praise & Prayer*

-  For those living in fear of separation from God
-  For our own meaningful and purposeful response to current events
-  For our living oneness with Christ
-  For His meaningful activity in all of life