**IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT**

1 John 1:1-2:17

Key Verse 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

* Foundation of Christian Fellowship (1:1-1:4)

1. Read 1:1-4. On what basis does John make his proclamation? Why did he make his proclamation? What kind of fellowship is John speaking about? How does it differ from secular fellowship?

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

* Importance of Repentance (1:5-2:2)

2. Read 5-10. In what respect is walking in the darkness harmful to our fellowship with God and others? (5-6) What will happen if we walk in the light? (7) How can we deal with our issues of darkness and sin? (8-9) How is our fellowship with God damaged if we claim that we have not sinned? (10)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.

3. Read 2:1-3. What was John’s goal in helping them to repent? (1) How could they overcome if they did sin?

But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

* Knowing and Obeying Jesus

4. Read 2:3-11. How can we know that we know Jesus? (3-4) What happens to us when we obey his commands? (5-6) How was an old command becoming a new command (7-8; Jn 13:34, 35)? Why is it so important to love our brothers and sisters? (7-11)

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30556a)] is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. 7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. 9Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30560b)] is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30561c)] lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

* Overcoming The World

5. Read verses 12-17. What are the different applications for children, young men and fathers? (12-14) Why does the author tell his people not to love the world? (15) What comes from the world? (16) What passes away and who lives forever? (17)

12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. 14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30566d)] is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.