**Living in the Light**

**The Word**

Read together 1 John 1:5-2:2

**The Big Idea**

As those who have fellowship with a God who is light, we are called to live in the light by obeying God’s commands and by confessing to God whenever we fall short of those commands.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. On Sunday it was argued that, based on 1 John 1:6, if we don’t see a trajectory towards the light in a person’s life, we should at least question whether that person actually has eternal life. What do you think about that idea? What issues does that raise for you?

2. On Sunday we talked about the negative ways and the positive ways we can deal with the dark and sinful parts of us. Take some time to share honestly about your own relationship with God in the midst of those parts of your life. What specific challenges have you faced in your relationship with God, and what are some of the lessons you’re learning along the way?

3. On Sunday it was argued that God forgives our sins because he is “just” (see 1:9). What do you think of that idea that God’s “justice” requires forgiveness, and how does that idea impact the way you will confess sins to God in the future?

4. Sunday’s message was primarily focused on confession to God, but Scripture also encourages us to “confess your sins to one another” (James 5:16). What would a healthy life of “confession to one another” look like practically? When, how, and in what ways should that happen in our lives?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. God is Light (v. 5)

 A. God is pure truth and pure goodness.

 B. In God there is no falsehood, deceit, sin, or wickedness

C. With the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are living in the dawn/sunrise of a new age in which God’s kingdom of light is already here but not fully present until his return

 (see 1 John 2:8)

II. Fellowship with God means living in the light (v. 6-7)

 A. This means keeping his commands and living as Jesus did (2:3 and 2:6)

 1. Paul mentions behaviors that are inconsistent with the light (Eph 5 and Gal 5)

 -sexual immorality, greed, coarse language, drunkenness, gossip, pride

2. Paul mentions behaviors and postures consistent with the light

-love, joy, peace, thanksgiving, contentment, sobriety, humility, kindness

 3. John is not asking for perfection but rather a trajectory towards the light

If there is no trajectory towards the light, we should question whether we truly have fellowship with God who is light (see 2:6)

 B. This means honestly confessing when we don’t obey his commands (1:8-2:2)

1. Confession brings up negative images for some: guilt, religiosity, etc., but biblical confession is actually very freeing and life-giving (confession simply means agreeing with God about the truth of ourselves)

2. If we claim we have no sin we deceive ourselves and make God sound like a liar since his Word states clearly that we do have sin (v. 8 and v. 10)

 3. We are tempted to cover and hide our sin rather than confess it

 a. This was Adam and Eve’s temptation: cover and hide

b. We have developed very sophisticated ways of covering and hiding (rationalize, blame, compartmentalize, fix, penance, live well elsewhere)

c. We cover and hide because we’re afraid of exposure. We’re afraid of being known for who we are and being rejected or judged

d. Living in hiding is a terrible way to live

 1) Unconfessed sin is a huge burden and weight

2) Unconfessed sin is Satan’s playground: he wants us to sin and keep those sins secret because that’s where he does his darkest damage of guilt, shame, and isolation

3) Living with unconfessed sin is the #1 way to lose intimacy with God

4. The good news is that God covers are nakedness so that we can stand before him without accusation

 a. God provided animals skins for Adam and Eve through sacrifice

 b. God provides covering for us through Christ’s sacrifice

1) Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (2:2). On the cross his death serves the sentence God’s perfect justice demands

2) Christ is the “Righteous One” (2:1), and when we put our faith in him, we are “clothed in Christ” so that God sees us as righteous like his Son

3) Christ is our advocate in heaven (2:1) who constantly intercedes for us

 5. So we can come out of hiding and openly confess our sins to God (1:9)

 a. God is faithful to our covenant relationship and won’t abandon us

b. God is just, and since he already condemned our sin in Christ at the cross, it would be unjust for him to condemn it a second time