

Good morning! If there's one thing people can quickly identify in people who are public about their Christianity, it is hypocrisy. Have you noticed that? Some popular televangelist will make a big deal about sexual sin and then get caught in a torrid extramarital affair and it's all over the news, right? It's easy to take this failure and use it to discredit the message. This is interesting to me, because in my mind, it actually *highlights* the message that we are all sinners and can be saved only by the grace of Jesus. All of us groan when we see these public failures happen. Does the Bible have anything to say about this? Yes! This morning, let's read a short passage together and consider what God might want to say to us about this:

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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 cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:6-7

Today's passage begins with a situation that we are all in from time to time. We call ourselves Christians and say we have fellowship with God but in some area of our lives we are "walking in darkness". There is some area of sin over which we just don't have control ---either we want to control it and can't or we don't want to control it and just keep on doing it. In either case, sin has us walking in darkness. The Bible says when that happens, we "lie and do not practice the truth." Isn't that an interesting way of saying it? I usually think of lying as something I say, but John tells us that when I don't *practice* the truth I am a liar. But then he gives us hope; listen to this: "*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 cleanses us from all sin.*" In the church Pam and I attend, most of this passage is in the liturgy; however, for some reason we skip right over the part that says, "*As He is in the light.*" That's too important to skip! John's message here is that our lives must be openly holy in the way that God is holy and if we do that, we can have full and true fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and Jesus' blood cleanses us from sin. Are you practicing the truth this morning? Are you walking in the light this morning, *as He is in the light?*