**Walking in the Light**

**Introduction**

When I was single, living in Fairview, TN, I was working a few jobs and did not have a lot of time. I determined that if I was going to keep the house clean then I would have to regulate the mess to one room. This is what I did and would try to clean in up completely once a week but a minimum once a month. If people came over, then they were welcome to go into any room in the house… but not that room. It was just too messy, too chaotic, and too out of control. (As Martha Hargashimer said, “If you want to see me then come anytime, but if you want to see the house make an appointment.”)

This is often how we are with God. We have the neat part of our lives that are fine to welcome Him into and we are happy for Him to look at the well-ordered parts (at least we think they are), but that back room is too messy, too chaotic, and too out of control. But the room with all the baggage we want to allow God into.

* John 1:9: Yet, Jesus has come into the world in order to enlighten everyone

Jesus is the light of the world (Jn 8:12) and this is emphasized by the gospel writers. Three (3) of the four (4) gospels begin by emphasizing that Jesus comes bringing light.

* Matthew 4:16
* Luke 2:32
* John 1:4-5, 9

Jesus did not come in order for us to keep even a small part of ourselves in darkness.

**1. Darkness to light**

* John 3:19-21

In John 3 a Jewish leader named Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night to talk with Jesus. This is the context in which Jesus makes the statement that one must be born again and the famous verse in John 3:16. But it is within this context that Jesus discusses the need for His light to expel the darkness from our lives.

Light (Jesus) entered the world, but the world did not love the light. The love of the darkness is due to evil deeds. Evil deeds do not want to be exposed so they love the darkness rather than the light (3:19-20). What could that “room” we want God to stay out symbolize?

* Love for darkness
* Lack of desire to change evil deeds

We must allow Jesus to expose our darkness so that our deeds are done for the Lord (3:21). ***The point of 3:21 is our deeds are not done out of love for darkness but in union with God. When God shines on our life this means all of our life must be united with our Lord. God is seeking to craft us into people who engage in deeds of light.***

* Do our deeds show we love light or darkness?
* Are we focused on working for God?
* Are our deeds driven by what is pleasing to the Lord?
* What corner of our life are we holding back from God?
* 1 John 1:5-7: Cannot claim to follow God and walk in darkness
* Psalm 139:23-24: Psalmist wants the darkness removed

**2. Being exposed by Jesus**

The reason we have such fear of light being shined on our darkness is because of the way the world deals with each other. What happens when someone is caught doing something in politics? Everyone jumps on board criticizing them. What happens when something they have said in the past is brought back to everyone’s mind? Everyone is outraged. There are calls to fire the person or “cancel” them. People are called hypocrites, charlatans, and frauds because they have engaged in something they called to stand against. ***Jesus is not trying to deal with us in any of these ways. Jesus deals with us in very different ways than humans deal with each other.***

* Jesus is not trying to shame us
* Jesus is not trying to embarrass us

***Context of John 3***

* Born again
* Understand God’s message and hope to humanity
* Believe
* God has sacrificed for our salvation

***Woman of John 4***

* Deals with her privately
* Does not shame her
* Let her know she is fully known and fully loved
* She can turn her life around… ***and does! He brings her to the light!***

***Acts 26:17-18, 20, 23***

* Open eyes
* Turn from darkness and control of satan to light and dominion of God
* Forgiveness of sins
* An inheritance among those sanctified in faith
* Repent (26:20)
* Turn to God (26:20)
* Deeds appropriate to repentance (26:20)

Jesus wants us to walk in the light that we might have eternal fellowship with Him (1 Jn 1:5-7). May we not love darkness so much that we stay away from the light.