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**It’s Time To Get Lit**

(1 John 1:6-7 KJV)

*6If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

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ave you noticed how many imitation products there are on the market today? There are imitation butter, vanilla extract, chocolate chips, milk, sugar, artificial flavors, and a host of other things like—fake fingernail, fake hair, fake spray on hair dye to cover those grays, fake eyebrows and fake eyelashes. Now some grocery store products are even advertised as "real" butter, "real" chocolate chips, "real" sugar, "real" milk—not only in food products do people want what is real, but in interpersonal relationships as well. And sadly many people we know could obviously be labeled as artificial (Fakers). They look nice on the outside, but on the inside they can be angry, annoyed, agitated, uptight, irritated, miserable, fed-up, and faker than a wooden nickel."

Now we can all agree that we all like it when people are real with us and not two faced but real—especially when they act like they really are ones that can literally be trusted. We like when they do not put on "fronts", when they are sincere, honest, truthful, and forthright. Sadly even in religion there are those that are imitations of the real thing. They pretend or claim to have what is real, when in reality all they have is a cheap imitation. If you are a Christian you must understand that Biblical Christianity should be real! It's genuine! It's alive! It's sincere! In (1 John 1:6), John is saying, “Genuine Christianity is real. There's nothing artificial about genuine Christianity." And if we have deprived ourselves of the fellowship we can’t share in fellowship with Jesus because of darkness—but there’s still help—and the only way to get help is first we must “Get Lit Up On Jesus!”

Now everyone should know how valuable the light is because we all have experience with darkness. The reality of sin is all around us. Yet some people suppress it; ignore it; reject it. There are two ways any person can walk—first there’s a path of darkness or secondly there’s the path of light. But at some point in life when you’ve become exhausted from swimming around in darkness you then realize and have to literally admit that, “It’s Time To Get Lit!”

Ironically without light it is hard to find our way in the darkness. Life can be scary and it’s easy to get lost without some light to show us the safe channels. This letter in which John inscribes was written to some Christian folks who had lost their way. They had separated themselves from the fellowship because they believed they were righteous and living without sin. Imagine that, in the early days of the church there were some who believed they were better than others on many levels. Instead of navigating with the light of God they were on a collision course, sailing in the dark.

Those folks needed the light of God to find their way. Light was a rare commodity then since their only source of light, other than daylight, was oil lamps—very few people could afford them so many relied on candlelight. In modern times we take the darkness for granted since we now have artificial lighting. Ironically finding our way in the dark is a relatively simple thing which makes it difficult for us to relate to this text. How many of us really know what it means to live in the dark? Or, to put it another way, how many really believe they never lived in the dark?

If you have ever experienced a power outage you know what it feels like to live in the dark. It is frustrating—you can’t cook, you can’t shave, you can’t use the hair dryer, you can’t watch television, you can’t use the VCR or find the remote. Instantaneously you are forced to change your lifestyle which is often difficult. And our only desire is that the lights come back on!

When we find ourselves following the light of God it means our lives are changed and they have new meaning. It means we help our neighbors, love someone we don’t like and live with the reality that we can’t live our lives without God. We need God’s power to sustain us and we need God’s light to show us the pathways we must travel.

1. **Light Discloses Our Sin**

(1 John 1:6 KJV)

*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

To walk in the light is to “confess our sins,” and believing that our sins will be forgiven. I believe we have misconstrued the meaning of confession of sins. To some it means admitting your mistakes to a member of the clergy or priest or pastor who acts as our mediator. In this context confession of sins means taking ownership of our limitations, mistakes, failures and all other parts of our lives that keep us in the dark. God wants us to be honest about—who we are and acknowledge all of our actions, both fantastic and frantic.

To confess our sins is to embrace reality. It means we are totally honest about our current state and therefore willing to open ourselves to the forgiveness of God. But, as long as we live in the shadows, as long as we pretend, or as long as we see ourselves as perfect and upright, we are failing to walk in the light or to put it another way, we are living in denial.