

Walking in the Light: Relationship

This Sunday, Stephen began a new series called; 'Walking in the Light'.

It is a 4 week journey reflecting on 4 important themes for the life of any would-be disciples of Jesus. Before we look at some foundational means of grace in the weeks ahead (WORD-PRAYER-DISCIPLINES), on Sunday we began by

dwelling on a core Christian belief: that the Triune God of the bible, revealed through Jesus Christ, is relational. The 'end', in the words of [1 John 1:1-10](#), is fellowship. Importantly, we do not mistake the means (bible-prayer-disciplines) for the end, lest we get into difficult ground. Stephen recapped by inviting us to consider 'Walking in the Light' as being unveiled in the presence of love in such a way that works itself out in the reality of community.



Through 1 John, we considered the warning to avoid 'false fellowship', which John calls darkness. For John, false fellowship was any form of discipleship that does not bear good fruit in the concrete reality of our lives together.

Through 1 John, we considered the warning to avoid 'false fellowship', which John calls darkness; namely, avoiding forms of discipleship that don't bear fruit in community. In particular, some in the Johannine communities made claims of fellowship when they were actually filled with darkness. John instead proclaims the mystery and majesty of the incarnate one. We follow the incarnate Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. What we do in our bodies and how we belong to a community and take up our place in the world really matters. Stephen touched on the very real forces that keep us from walking in the light with pride and shame being identified as common root causes that tempt us to hide from the light. We heard the good news that God is radically committed to us - and present as our helper - in the person of the Holy Spirit, despite our sin and ongoing battles. We have a confession that throws us time and again on the work of Christ.

Because of Jesus we can always stand in the presence of the Triune God of love. Stephen invited us to consider 4 postures or places we could take up in the presence of God:

- Is the Spirit inviting us to stand in the place of CONTRITION?
- Is the Spirit inviting us to stand in the place of PURSUIT?
- Is the Spirit inviting us to stand in the place of CONNECTION?
- Is the Spirit inviting us to stand in the place of ASSURANCE?

- What difference does the incarnation make?

- What obstacles to “true fellowship” do you most identify with or see at play today?

- What work of the Spirit is required to change that?
- Which place or posture in the presence of God feels most important for you?