

Radiant Roanoke 2016

Walk In The Light

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,
purifies us from all sin. -1 John 1:7 (niv)

Humility, the theme of 1 John: who we are in Christ (our vertical relationship with God) and how that's lived out in community (our horizontal relationship with man).

“Our humility before God is proven in our humility toward each other.” Andrew Murray

I. Vertical Humility – Our Relationship With God

Sin: it will tangle us or destroy us, it's hard to break because of Satan's deception: that our sin provides something for us God *cannot* or *will not* give us.

Pride: we all have issues: a need for approval, love, comfort, position, pleasure, acceptance, etc. **1 John 1:8** – if we confess our sin, God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us.

A. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's conviction.

Confess and persevere, take baby steps of obedience, trust Him to transform our hearts and lead us to change our behaviors

B. Beware of the enemy's attempt to distract us.

He disguises himself as the angel of light and twists good things into weapons, especially **Power, Possessions, Popularity, Pleasure.**

None are bad but all can be traps for us and become *counterfeit lights* we walk in: desires for power & influence, greed, approval of others, entertainment, sex, etc.

Counterfeit lights always burn us.

We either get what we're chasing and find out it doesn't provide what we hoped, or we spend our lives chasing something we'll never attain.

Darkness always deceives and disheartens us.

When we walk in the darkness of comparison, envy, bitterness, condemnation, expectations of others, we never experience freedom, peace and joy.

The enemy will use whatever he can to distract us: either darkness or counterfeit light. But the light of Jesus heals us and leads us in godliness and Christlikeness.

II. Horizontal Humility – Our Relationship With Mankind

As our vertical relationship strengthens, we will bear fruit in our horizontal relationships!

1 John 3:11-18 – How can we say we love God whom we have not seen, but hate our brother whom we have seen? ... Love one another ... with actions and in truth.

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less.” C.S. Lewis

Jesus lived the perfect model of humility, loving and serving and respecting everyone. When we walk in His light and follow His example, the world will see the message of the Gospel lived out.

Final Challenge: Read Romans 12 every day for a week, and then choose a verse to memorize!