

# iLife

## Pursuing a Spiritually Authentic Life

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"*

John 8:12

*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven..."*

Matthew 5:14-16

*The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.*

Proverbs 4:18

*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...*

Philippians 2:14-16a

### WALK IN THE LIGHT

**1 John 1:5-2:2**

5- *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*

6- *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.*

7- *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.*

8- *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

9- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

10- *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*

2:1- *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

2- *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

### Historical Background of the Author and Epistle of 1 John:

History says the Apostle John left Jerusalem shortly before its destruction in AD 70- and probably ministered in around Ephesus.

No persecution is mentioned suggesting a date before AD95 when persecution broke out toward the end of Emperor Domitian's reign.

The epistle was written after the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel.

### Big themes of the Epistle of 1<sup>st</sup> John:

The more dominant themes of John's Epistle are: Spiritual Health; Righteousness; Living a life of love; Countering the false teaching of Gnosticism (probably the most dangerous heresy threatening the church in the first three centuries)

### Some of the commonly held tenants of Gnosticism:

They denied Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

They denied the Christ had come in the flesh.

They denied the Christ had resurrected bodily.

They denied the authority of Jesus commands.

They denied their own sinfulness.

They denied salvation through the work of Christ.

They denied righteous conduct (holiness) as a requirement of fellowship with God.

They denied the authority of the writers of the Epistles and refused to submit to their message.

They denied the members of the Christian community who did not follow them were in the truth.

### The implications of Gnosticism

The Gnostic heresy taught that matter is inherently evil and a divine being therefore could not take on human flesh. This resulted in the distinction between the man Jesus and the Spiritual Christ who came upon Jesus at His baptism but departed prior to His crucifixion. Because matter was evil, the resurrection of Jesus was viewed as only spiritual.

The Gnostics also believed that their understanding of the hidden knowledge (gnosis) made them a kind of spiritual elite, who were above the normal distinctions of right and wrong. This usually resulted in deplorable conduct and complete disregard for Christian ethics.

Because all matter was evil - a committed Gnostic was either: Ascetic- seeking to conquer the sinful desires of the flesh; or Libertine who engaged in uncontrolled indulgence. This resulted in confusion and disagreement among the ascetic and libertine Gnostics.