

## Living with Extremes – 1 John 1:5-2:6

We live in a world of extremes!

The definition of extremes – Either of two things that are as different from each other as possible!

Here are some of the examples of extremes in our day!

Extreme-----Extreme

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Why must it always be about “me” verses “you”, “us” verses “them”?

Why must the extremes be the only two positions we can hold?

In our passage this morning John is speaking of extremes, but with a very different purpose in mind! He doesn't intend to divide us, but to unite us, even in the midst of their existence!

**“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” – Vs. 5** God is an extreme!

And we may not be as bad as we could be, but we are as different from God as possible because of our sin! Sin has affected our whole being!

**“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, & the truth is not in us” – Vs. 8.** There is no escaping it – we all have a sin problem & that's the truth!

If we try to deny or hide our sin, we simply dig ourselves into a deeper hole!

**“If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” – Vs. 10** The divide between us and God increases in our denial!

These extremes exist, but are they the only two options? - **“If we say we have fellowship with him (light) while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth” – Vs. 6** Can light and darkness coexist?

**“If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” – Vs. 9.** To remove unrighteousness is to erase the darkness – the very thing that separates us!

God (extreme light) provides the way for what is in darkness to come into the light! Confession is the bridge between the two!

This is what John means by being in the light – It's confessing our sin & confessing Christ as our Lord! This is what brings us together, God and man, but also man to man, no matter the extremes that separate us!

**“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 cleanses us from all unrighteousness” – Vs. 7**

Sin has the power to divide us! But Christ has the power to unite us!

**“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” - Ch. 2 Vs. 1.**

Extremes are brought together by the blood of Jesus! His sacrifice for sin is the key to our unity and fellowship with one another!

**“He is the propitiation for our sins... Propitiation means Jesus pays our debt in full! An infinite debt paid for by a sacrifice of infinite worth!**

**“and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world” - Vs. 2.**

And this payment in full by Jesus is not just for you and me, or a few other people, but offered to the world!

There are extremes that exist! There is “light” and there is “darkness”, there is “life” and there is “death”, there is “heaven” and there is “hell”, there is “truth” & there are “lies”, there is “right” and there is “wrong” etc.

Our only hope of living into the reality of the extremes that exist, is to accept and embrace the one who bridged the gap and makes fellowship between opposing extremes possible!

To be “in Christ” is to stand between the opposing extremes. It's more than a status, it's an action! **“By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked”**

How do we live this out? We confess our own sin, embrace the light of Christ & learn from His example as He lived in this divided & extreme world?

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