

## The God of Light

Intro: How many times have you heard, “I like to think of God as ...”? What usually follows is a description of a being that is benevolent, the ultimate best friend, or as someone said, “whose main purpose is to satisfy the whims of his creatures”. If we start out with a self-made description of God, then most of what follows is misguided. Let us look at 1 John 1 see what John had to say.

1. The God of Light gave the world a “real Jesus”. 1:1-4
  - A. Consider background that might have presented the need to make this point.
  - B. Notice the difference between John and “I like to think of God as”.
  - C. I report to you what I’ve “heard, seen and touched”.
    - . What is his report?
      1. Jesus is the “Word of Life”
      2. He was once with God before he showed himself to the world.
      3. We had “fellowship” with Jesus and God and want you to share the same.
  - D. Remember his words: We have heard; We have seen; We have touched. He says he reports this to us so our “joy may be made full”. Implication: Without understanding and believing what John says, there is no joy.
  
2. Jesus is the reflection of God.
  - A. See how Jesus is described in Hebrews 1:3 and by John. (See Jn. 1:4,5,9,18; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46). He, too, is light.
  - B. Contrast light with darkness.
  - C. Jesus came to answer the questions we have about God.
  
3. Jesus’ followers are to be a reflection his light.
  - A. See Matthew 5:14; Philippians 2:15; 1 Peter 2:9
  - B. How we live (“Practice the truth” – 1:5) is absolutely connected to the validity of our relationship with God.
  - C. Walking in light is not sinless perfection. 1 John 1:7ff and James 3:2
  - D. Walking in light means we confess our sins and He cleanses us. 1 Jn. 1:7,9
  - E. Walking in light means continuous discipleship. 1 Jn. 2

Conclusion: I implore you to stop defining God the way it was described to you in our introduction. That concept will never allow our lives to become what we were created to be. God is light and we are to reflect that light, “period”. Nothing else is good enough.