

**I John 1:5-10**  
**God's Message to Us**

**Introduction:**

Our Westminster Standards and in particular the Shorter Catechism instructs us at the outset: What is God? That is, what is God like? What are His characteristics? Most importantly how can we come to know Him? God has given the answer to these questions by sending us a message in His Word. The Shorter Catechism states it this way: "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth." It is one thing to know about God, it another thing to know Him intimately through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

**I. The Holiness of God – v.5**

**A. God is Spirit, Love and Light – I John 4:24; 4:8; 1:5**

1. Positive statement – God is Light
2. Negative statement – No darkness at all

**B. Light emphasized in the Old Testament: Psa. 27:1; 36:9; 104:1,2**

1. Light a symbol of God's Holiness – John 3:19
2. Light has direct application to Jesus – Heb. 1:3; John 8:12
3. Light in a lesser sense applies to Christians – Turn To: 12:34-36

**II. The Sinfulness of Man**

**A. Three False Claims: v.6,8,10**

1. Walking in darkness v.6 (Dietrich Bonhoeffer- "easy grace") Rom. 6:1, 2 (F.F.Bruce) Q. Why do we need cleansing from sin if we are walking in the light? (No Contradiction – v.7)
2. To cease from sinning. V.8,9 (Martin Lloyd-Jones)
3. We have never sinned – v.10 ( Rom.3:23; 3:4)

**III. The Savior of Sinners**

**A. We are all in need of a Savior – (Jonathan Edwards – "good bad works")**

1. In order to be saved Jesus the Light of the world must shine upon us – John 1:9
2. In order to be saved we must cry out for a Savior – Rom. 10:13
3. In order to saved we must acknowledge our uncleanness in sin – Isa. 6:5; Luke 5:8; I Tim. 1:15

**B. Pardon from Sin – (Barnhouse –illustration)**

**C. Growth in Holiness:**

1. Growth in holiness comes when we possess a sensitivity to sin.
2. Growth in holiness comes when the Bible becomes precious to us.
3. Growth in holiness comes when we increasingly desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.