

Psalm 135:15-18

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.

This is the message

1 John 1: 5-10

God has something to say to us.
He is a God who communicates.

We need to listen.



1 John 1:5 -10

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth. 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 sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

This is the message we have heard from him

God communicates with us in human language – this itself is a gift from God.

Jesus gave them (us) this message.

The Holy Spirit brought it to accurate remembrance to the apostles.

Our job is to faithfully pass it on.



and proclaim to you,

Here is one of John's favourite words.

- it's a public clear declaration
- to personal listener



And it is for us as individuals to receive it and take it on-board.

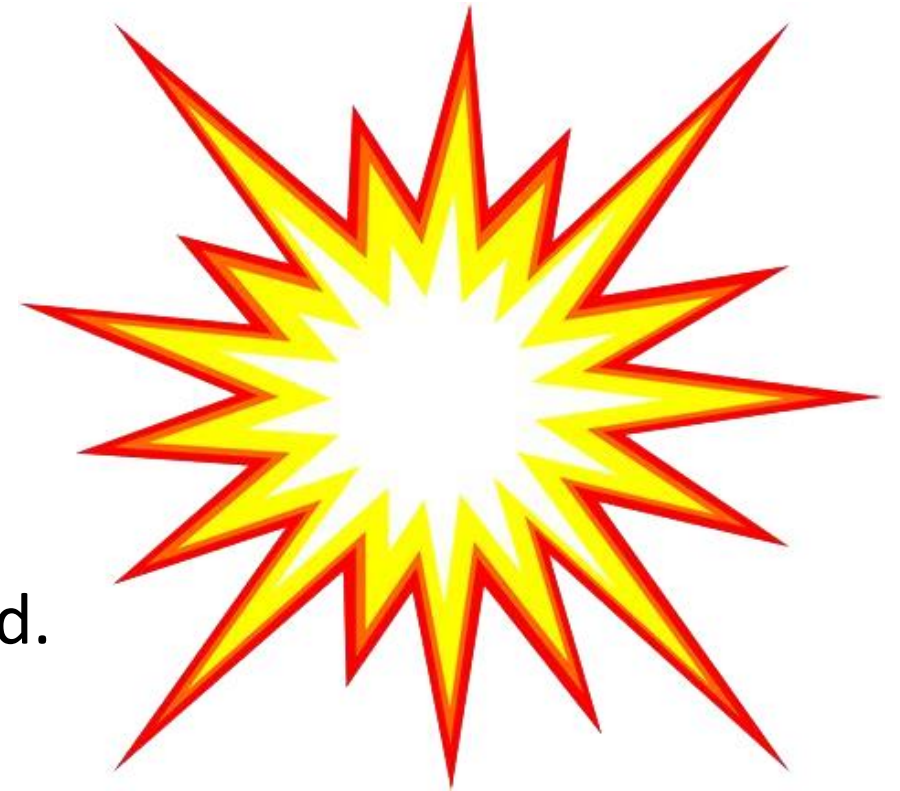
that God is light,

This is a revolutionary statement...

Of course, God is not the physical light
– he made that in Genesis 1

And it is not just that God gives the ‘light’
of understanding,

But **in his nature** he is pure, faultless and
the embodiment of all that is true and good.

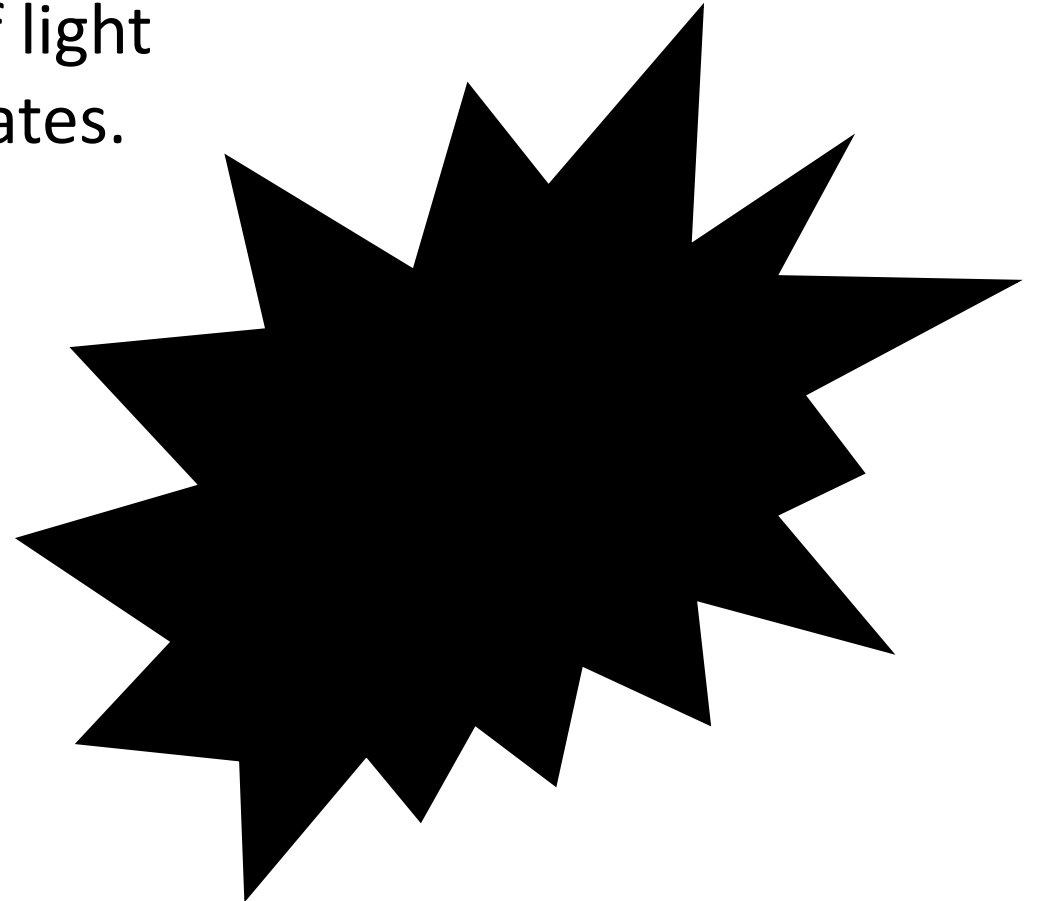


and in him is no **darkness** at all.

To John, darkness is not the absence of light but the presence of evil, all that God hates.

John 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

The contrast is darkness (evil) to light (God's purity)



and **in him** is no darkness at all.

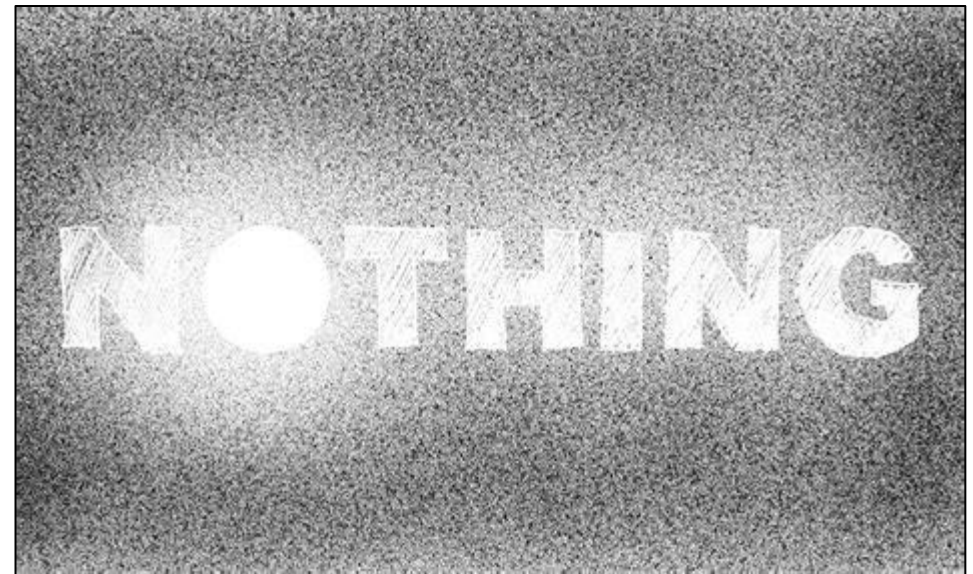
In God's being there is no evil, wrong thinking or malice.

James 1:13 ... God cannot be tempted by evil,
nor does he tempt anyone;

“No darkness at all” is a double
emphatic negative.

Eg. - no way – no how – not ever!

This is our wonderful Lord!



If we say we have fellowship with him

This can be a tremendous claim – and possibility!
Of course it is only possible through a
relationship of forgiveness, cleansing and the
Spirit enabling.

It is possible – we can say it - BUT



If we say we have fellowship with him while **we walk** in darkness,

Compare the claim with the reality.



“Walk” is the Hebrew way of expressing ‘living life’.

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk **in darkness**,

John is not talking about going out at night!
But the analogy applies – it's dangerous.
We cannot see where we are going and
obstacles can trip us up.

If someone is walking 'in darkness' they are
living an evil life of sin. This is done
knowingly and deliberately since 'to walk'
implies a choice of direction of movement.



we lie

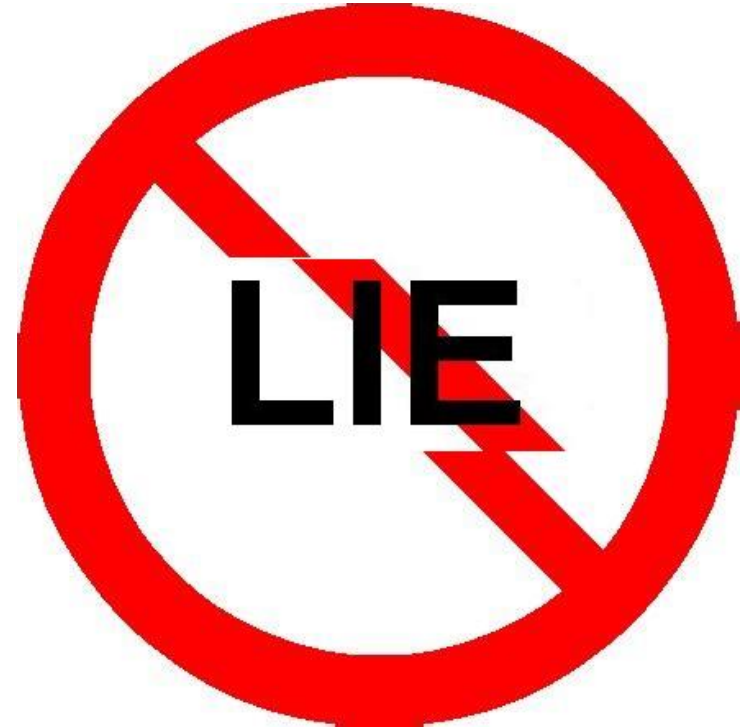
It's as simple and as terrible as that!

It's a lie.

If we have said or thought that we can have fellowship with God and live in wilful sin, then WE are guilty of lying.

It cannot be true to claim to have a close relationship with God and also deliberately do what is disgusting to him. It is a complete contradiction.

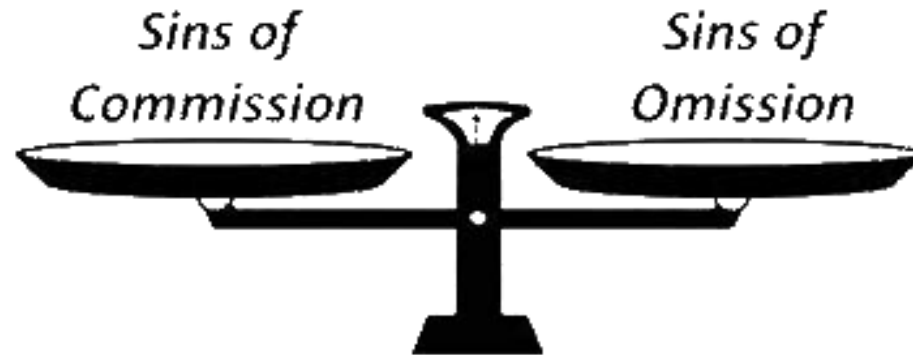
It's a



and (we) do not practise the truth.

The lie manifests itself in what we do and don't do.

Which is worse?



Practising the truth is an ongoing, learning process of ordering our living according to God's revealed will.

But if we walk in the light,

It's not about going out during the day,
but the analogy applies again
– in the daylight we have a purpose,
we can see where we are heading and
can avoid dangers and obstacles.

WE can order our lives by living
according to God's will as he has
revealed it in his word.



as he is in the light,

Jesus' life is in line with God's will. Therefore he is our role model.
We have Jesus' example and His Holy Spirit's leading



we have fellowship with one another,

It is not good for humans to be alone.(Genesis 2:18)

We were created for fellowship.

This is the wonderful result of our new relationship with the Lord Jesus.
WE have a family of Jesus' people.

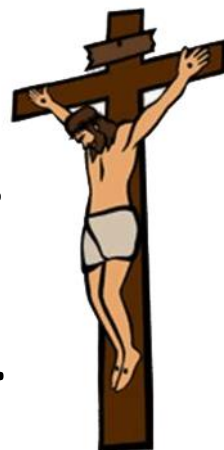
And as John has said we can have fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ (people with skin on!) and also a wonderful sense of God's presence in our lives.



and the blood of Jesus his Son

The shedding of Jesus' blood is another way of saying 'his sacrificial death'.

The OT sacrificial type has been fulfilled in God's perfect Son. His perfect human nature was offered. And he bore the crushing wrath of God by the power of the eternal Spirit.



God gave his BEST as this was the only way. This shows the terrible evil and consequence of sin.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

The death of Jesus is the means through which we can be forgiven. Cleansing is applied to each of us individually as we come to him in repentance and faith, believing in who he is and what he has done for us.



cleanses us from all sin.

All sin – Consider the explanation in Hebrews 10:4 that says that animal sacrifice will not work. Human sin requires a human remedy!

This once for all time cleansing shows the adequacy and power of Jesus' offering and so it covers our past, present and future in God's sight.

Be encouraged by the present tense 'cleanses'. This is an ongoing, present blessed application.



If we say we have no sin,

There are some who claim perfection.

But John the elder and apostle includes himself in the group that **doesn't** claim this!

'If' means we could say it
– but it wouldn't be true.

Perfection is possible but only when we leave this present world behind.



The
Perfect
Man

Hebrews 12:23 ... You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,

A very bad case of myopia.

We can convince ourselves by repeating
the thought until we come to believe it,
but the only person who believes it is
ourselves.

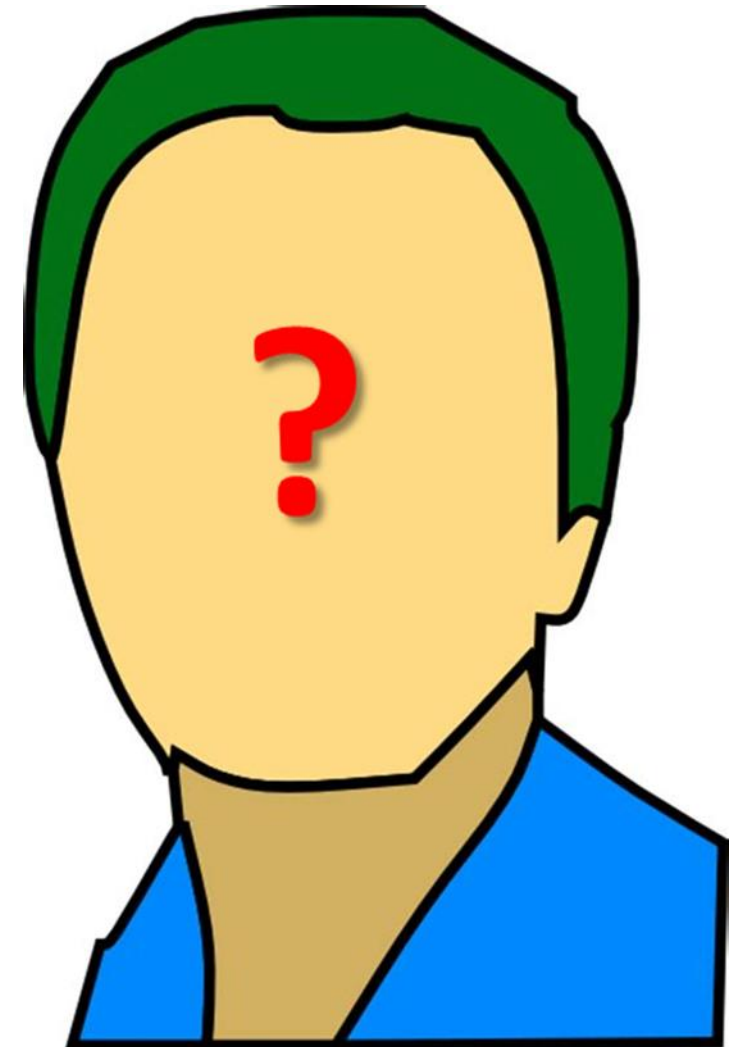
We deceive ourselves and nobody else.
They can see our faults when we can't.
Cf. the log and the speck in Matthew 7:3.



and the truth is not in us.

If we live in self-deception then the standards of reality are absent. The truth says otherwise about us and since we reject the truth it has no place in us. We are not real!

We can find ourselves living in a world of make-believe.



If we confess our sins,

‘Confess’ means I agree with God about the specifics.
He calls it sin – we should too.

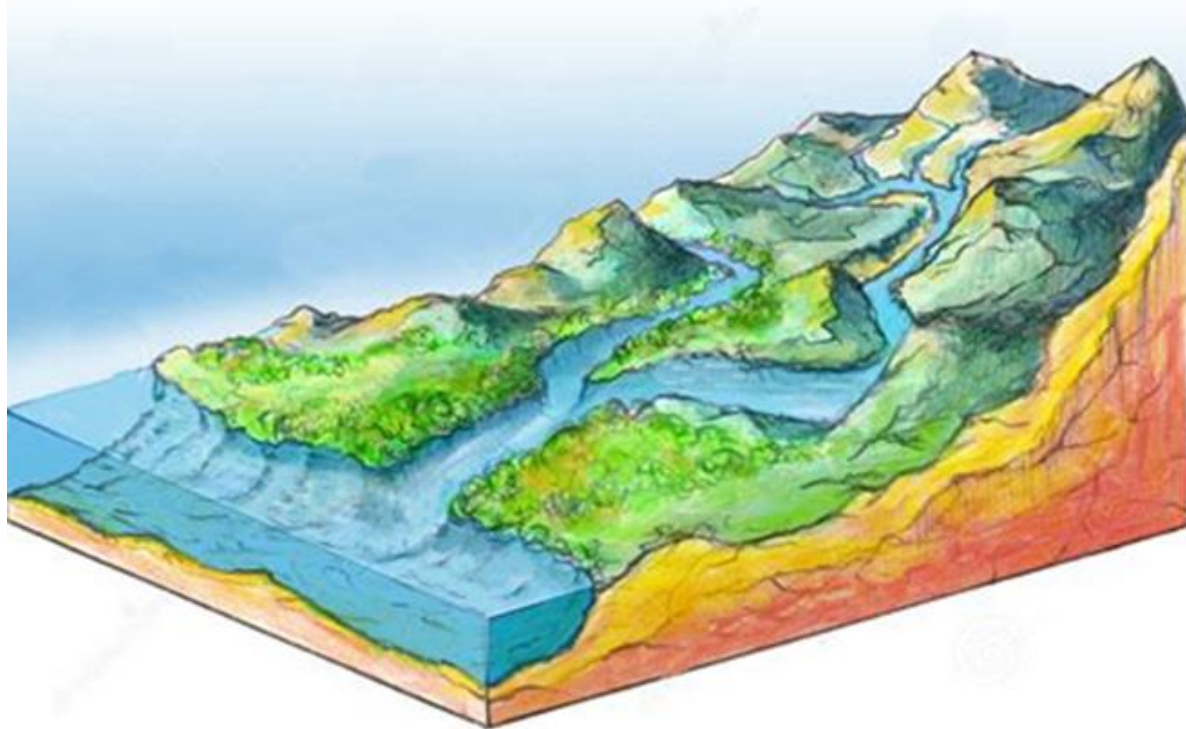
This is the way to forgiveness.
Admit it.

Who do we confess to?
It should be God first, others if necessary
(beware of putting guilt on others)



our sins,

Sins are the bad results of the **sin** nature within us.



Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins

Forgiveness brings the cleansing for daily living



John 13:10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

he is **faithful** and just to forgive us our sins

God is always faithful to his promise – he will do what he has said

Numbers 23:19

God is not human, that he should lie,
not a human being, that he should change his mind.

Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfil?



he is faithful and **just** to forgive us our sins

With God there is no bending of the rules,
no favouritism etc.

Justice is seen to be done – no one can say,
“It’s not fair!”

Jesus has died and paid the price.

Therefore, forgiveness is freely available to
those who repent (confess) and ask for mercy.



he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



Our sins are washed away.

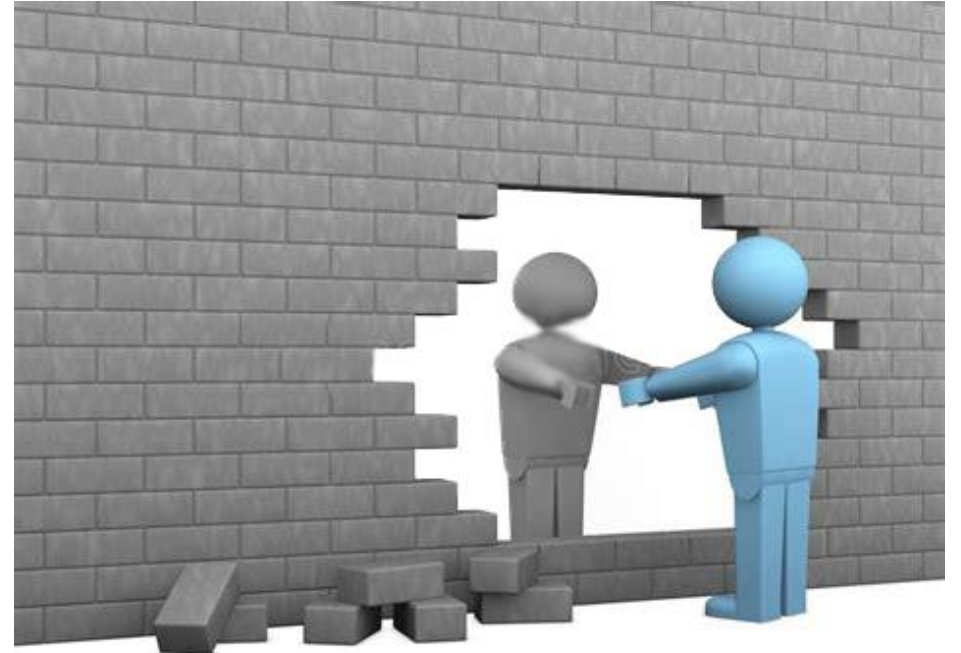
We have a sense of purity and acceptance.

Isaiah 6:5-7 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

and to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness.

'All' means there are no more barriers

Now we are living in God's way,
(covered in the perfect righteousness of
Jesus) and can have a precious sense of
being right with God in the present.



If we say we have not sinned,

John repeats the warning about this dangerous kind of thinking but shows there are other additional terrible consequences.

Don't do it because ..



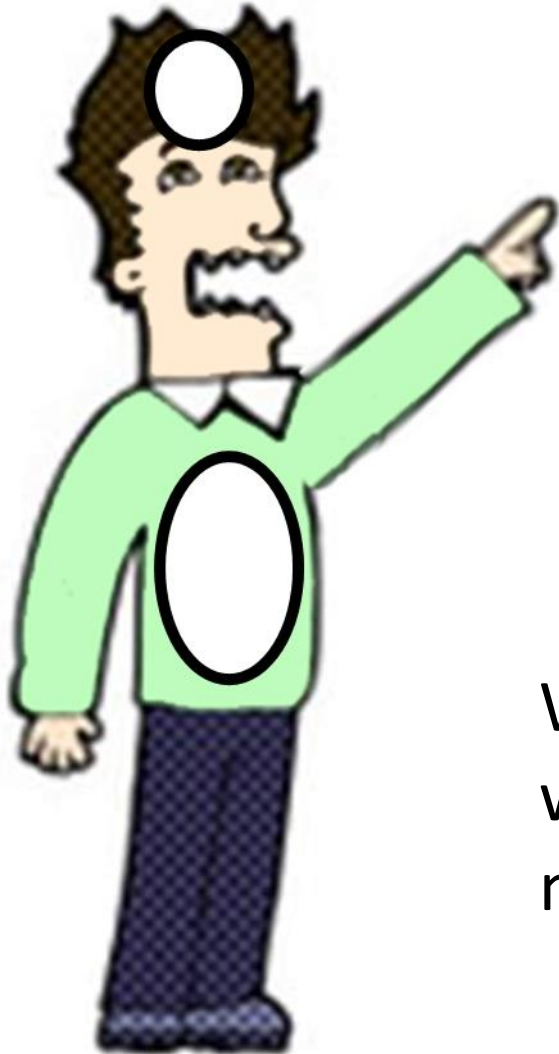
we make him a liar,



This is a terrible slur against God.
He sees everything and has said we have
sin in our lives.
We are calling him a liar.

We are setting ourselves up judges
against God!

and his word is not in us.



Such actions show that his truth is not operational in our hearts and thinking. If it had been, we would not have come away with such an outrageous claim that we have not sinned.

With His word in us we would be cured us of such madness!



1 John 1:5-10 In summary

- *God in his being is pure and good (light).
- *His people (us) are to live as he calls us to be – like Him.
- *When we sometimes fail, he has provided the only remedy – confession and cleansing through faith in the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.
- *Beware of thinking we have arrived while we are living in this world.

