



<b>DATE</b>	September 25, 2016
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	Walk in the Light
<b>SERIES</b>	Everyone wants to fit in. And there's nothing wrong with that, but there are ways God wants His followers to stand out from the world around them. The first-century church dealt with this same tension, so John wrote them a letter, 1 John, describing the difference between true followers of Jesus and counterfeit ones. So, what's true, and what's false?

How many of you remember the "Truth or Dare" game? Don't worry, we won't ask you to do anything crazy to avoid sharing those embarrassing truths! But in all seriousness we do need to ask ourselves those tough questions about our faith. Are we the true Jesus followers we were created to be? Let's find out...

### Icebreaker

What are a few things your best friend would say to describe you? What are a few things **you wish** your best friend would say about you?

### Exploring Scripture

John mentions four things that should be true of believers throughout the epistle of 1 John: *Joy* (1:4), *Holiness* (2:1), *Sound Doctrine* (2:26), and *Assurance of Salvation* (5:13). Read each of these verses and comment on which of the elements you have seen God grow you in since you became a believer? Is there one that has been extra important in your development?

David stated the creed God gave John in 1 John 1:5, namely that *God is light and in Him there is no darkness*. David then gave the following scriptures that describe light: Genesis 1:3, Isaiah 9:1, Isaiah 58:8, 10, Isaiah 60:1, 19-20, John 8:12, Revelation 22:5. Take turns reading these passages in your group and discuss the meaning behind the use of the word light in each.

David provided a list of contrasting words illustrating the difference between light and darkness. In reviewing the list, where do you think most people live? How has the culture impacted and blurred the meanings of these descriptive words?

What are your thoughts regarding John's purpose for writing his letter describing the difference between a true follower of Jesus and a false one? How does your thinking fit into today's culture?

### Application

John emphasizes that we are to walk in the light. David explained that this is a lifestyle, not perfection - "you are made right, then you do right". What evidences of walking in the light are more apparent in your life now than when you first believed? In what areas of darkness do you continue to struggle? (recall David's boxes comparing light and darkness) What practical steps can you take to walk more fully in the light?