



## 1 John 1:7

(7) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

*New King James Version*

As we grow, [God](#) reveals more of His perfection to us, and as He reveals His perfection, His light, His [truth](#), we continue to [repent](#). Knowing better what He is, we go to Him for [forgiveness](#) of what we are and what we have done, and He continues to cleanse us by the blood of [Jesus Christ](#), washing our imperfections away.

Everything in the Christian life ultimately comes down to our [relationship with God](#). Without the relationship, without the [fellowship](#) that is made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—which bridges the gap between us and God and enables us to have the relationship—no growth will take place. The practice of walking in the light makes perfect. It is not a matter of changing and cleansing ourselves, but rather that fellowship with God has a transforming and perfecting quality.

We know that "evil communication [*company*, NKJV] corrupts good manners" ([1 Corinthians 15:33](#), KJV). The obverse of this is that wonderful, pure, good communication *produces* good manners. When we are around evil people, we will pick up their habits and their ways. When we choose as our companions people who have the standards of God and fellowship with them, they will likely rub off on us. We cannot fellowship with anyone better than God. That is the whole purpose of the relationship. When we are around Him, we become like Him, unless we consciously decide to cut ourselves off from Him by rejecting His truth.

It is a wonderful system. Everything hinges on the relationship, on the fellowship, and then ultimately on the response to truth. We cannot afford to allow the carnal nature in us (it is still there even after [conversion](#), as Paul said that [sin](#) was still in him; [Romans 7:14-25](#)) to gain the upper hand and prevent us from working and building on this relationship.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 1 John 1:7 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

[Leviticus 19:2](#) tells us that we are to be holy because He is holy, and that is what this fellowship is doing, equipping us for [holiness](#) on a day-to-day basis. Maintaining that fellowship is not always easy because of the prejudices that we bring with us due to the traditions of our human cultures. We were once helpless before them, having absorbed what our parents taught us until God opened our minds to the truth. Even now, it takes conscious effort for us to respond to the truth, but if we want to be holy, we must maintain the relationship.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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