

The Truth Presented
June 7, 2015
Allen Power

1 John 1:1-4

Opening question: **How would you introduce your spouse to someone? How would you describe your spouse to them? Any brave souls willing to give a brief introduction of your other half?**

In this passage the Apostle John (now an old man) gives a personal introduction of Jesus. Who our Savior is; what He's done; and how we can enjoy personal fellowship with Him.

Introduction to 1 John:

- The Apostle John wrote this letter (epistle) to early believers who needed reassurance. In the time John wrote this letter false teachers had begun to spread heresy about who Jesus was¹.
- These early believers had begun to question both the Savior Himself, and their faith in Him.
- John couldn't stand by and let these first century believers be misled.
- This was John, Jesus' closest disciple. John, the one Jesus asked to care for Mary.
- John could NOT stay silent and allow believers to miss the JOY of fellowship with Jesus!

Warren Wiersbe tells us John stated five purposes for the writing of his first letter:

He wrote this letter that we might...

...have FELLOWSHIP (1:3). Communion with Christ; God the Father; other believers.

...have JOY (1:4). Joy is the result of a close fellowship with Christ.

...NOT SIN (2:1-2). Victory over sin and forgiveness when we do sin.

...OVERCOME ERROR (2:26). Facing the false teaching of John's day and today.

...have ASSURANCE (5:13). How to be sure we are saved.

This morning we'll look at the first four verses of 1 John...the introduction or the prologue.

The Big Idea: I came up with five things I believe these four verses tell us about Jesus ²:

1. Jesus is who the Bible says He is. (1:1)
2. He did what it says He did. (1:2)
3. And He will do what He promised to do. (1:2)
4. Faith in Him gives us eternal life forever, and allows us...(1:2)
5. Daily fellowship with Him that gives us joy for today. (1:3-4)

Question: How's your JOY level? If it's low, how's your FELLOWSHIP level? Let's talk about it.

1 John 1:1–4 (ESV)

1That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

2the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

3that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

As we always do, let's see what this text says; what it means; and what it means to us.

- Verse one: With no greeting or salutation, John jumps right into who Jesus is.
- "...from the beginning." Does that sound familiar? Let's compare this verse with the first verse of John's Gospel, John 1:1:
John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- **What do you think John meant by saying "That which was from the beginning?"**

I love this quote from Bob Utley:

“The coming of Jesus was not “plan B.” The gospel was always God’s plan of redemption.”

- Certainly John was affirming that Jesus has always existed and participated in creation.
- He also appears to refer to the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry, and the beginning of the message of the Gospel. **Why would John be a good source for information about Jesus’ ministry and message?**
- In verse one John engages the senses to verify his claims about Jesus. You can hear John saying: *“I saw the miracles with my own eyes. I leaned against him at the last supper. I touched him after He rose from the dead.”*

Luke 24:39 (ESV) Jesus said to his disciples...

See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

- When Jesus said that, you KNOW the Apostle “He loved” (John) embraced Him! John was an eyewitness to who Jesus is and what He did on earth.
- **What was John testifying about Jesus in verse one? If John has seen, heard, and touched Jesus, then Jesus was fully...(what?)**
- Remember: Jesus is who the Bible says He is. He did what it says He did. And He will do what He promised to do. Faith in Him gives us eternal life forever, and daily fellowship with Him that gives us joy for today.
- Verse one: John says he’s speaking about *“the word of life.”* **Why do we even have words?**
- God needed to communicate to mankind who He is and how to relate to Him. In John’s Gospel he wrote that the “Word became flesh.” **How was Jesus the “word of life?”**

Wiersbe:

“Why does Jesus Christ have this name (word of life)? Because Christ is to us what our words are to others. Our words reveal to others just what we think and how we feel. Christ reveals to us the mind and heart of God. He is the living means of communication between God and men. To know Jesus Christ is to know God!”

Colossians 1:15 (ESV) Paul wrote...

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

- Jesus said in John 14:9: *“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”*
- **Jesus is the “word of life,” the Word of God. How should that influence us today?**
- Jesus was not only “fully man,” He was also fully God.
- Verse two: John uses an interesting choice of words, “the life was made manifest.”
- **What does “manifest” mean? What’s the difference in “manifest” and “manufacture?”**
- Jesus wasn’t a man who created a religion. God made Himself known to man through His Son, who was fully man and fully God.
- End of verse two: **What did John say he was proclaiming?**
- Some say Jesus was just a “great teacher.” Only God...God the Son... can give eternal life.
- Verse three: **What reason did John give for proclaiming this message?**
- Let’s talk about what “fellowship” means. The Greek word: Koinonia.
- It means: “communion” or “sharing together.” *The term refers to the community or fellowship of Christian believers participating together in the life of Christ as made possible by the Spirit.*
- **What’s the difference between “fellowship” versus “relationship” or even “friendship?”**
- Example: Many times Presidents of the US start their speeches by saying **"My (what?)..."**
- If they were speaking to a group of citizens from another country it would be ridiculous to say "My fellow Americans" because they wouldn't be speaking to Americans.
- You can have relationship; or friendship; or even kinship with unbelievers. You can only have FELLOWSHIP with other believers. And it’s not just fellowship with other believers.
- Verse three: **With whom can we have “fellowship” as a believer in Christ?**

The Teacher’s Commentary tells us:

“ ‘Fellowship’...koinonia...(is) a word of intimacy and means “communion; close relationship; participation; sharing.” John’s desire for us is what we ourselves yearn for: a warm, comfortable relationship with God in which we are aware of being close to Him in heart and mind.”

- That bears repeating: Because of Jesus, if we accept Him as Savior and Lord, we can have a warm, personal relationship with God. We can feel his presence in our hearts and minds!
- Verse three: **How is fellowship with God related to fellowship with other believers?**
- **What can block our fellowship with God and other believers? How can we enhance it?**
- Verse four: **What is John’s goal by writing this letter to believers?**
- Some translations say “our” joy some say “your joy,” **Whose joy is John talking about? How much joy is John saying we can have?**
- NKJV: “...that your joy may be full.” Message: “Your joy will double our joy!”
- John wrote this letter we’re about to study so we can have TOTAL JOY as a believer in Christ!
- If we’re in right “fellowship” with God and with other believers, we receive JOY when we see other believers experiencing that same joy.

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- These first four verses should “whet” our appetite for what John has to share in this letter.
- John sent us this letter so we can learn:
 - How to have FELLOWSHIP with Christ and other believers.
 - How to have JOY in this close fellowship with Christ.
 - How to have VICTORY over sin and FORGIVENESS when we do sin.
 - How to OVERCOME ERROR by knowing how to spot false teaching.
 - And how to have ASSURANCE we’re saved.
- John is credible because he was an “eyewitness” to who Jesus is and the message He brings.
- This letter confirms for us the most important things to know about Jesus:
 - He is who the Bible says He is. He did what it says He did. And will do what He promised.
- The most exciting news of all is this: Faith in Christ gives us eternal life forever. Daily fellowship with Him gives us joy for today. How’s your JOY

level? If it's low, how's your FELLOWSHIP level? What will you do this week to deepen your fellowship with Jesus and with other believers?

¹ The false teachers in John's day were claiming: (1) that matter was evil, therefore Christ did not come in the flesh; (2) that Christ only appeared to be a real man; (3) that knowledge of truth is more important than living the truth; and (4) that only a "spiritual few" could understand spiritual truths. As you read 1 John, you will see that John emphasizes: (1) that matter is not evil, but man's nature is sinful; (2) that Jesus Christ had a real body and experienced a real death; (3) that it is not enough "to say" what we believe, we must practice it; and (4) all Christians have an unction from God and can know His truth. — Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament (pp. 766–767). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² From the Baptist Faith and Message - The Doctrine of God the Son

<http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.