

## **Fellowship with God** **1 John 1:1-4**

### **Introduction to First John**

1. Author – The Apostle John  
Author of the Gospel & Book of Revelation  
Believed to be last living of the 12
2. Recipients of this Epistle  
Possibly same as in Revelation  
Churches in Roman province of Asia
3. Purpose of this Epistle  
False teachers were a threat to the church  
Threat to the unity of the Body of Christ  
False doctrine was a threat to the Church

### **I. Basis for Fellowship – 1:1, 2**

1. Fellowship based on Revelation  
Church is built upon revealed truth  
Matthew 16:17-18  
John writes as an eyewitness  
What he saw & heard
2. Based upon God's eternal truth  
What was from the beginning – John 1:1  
The outworking of God's eternal plan
3. Goes back to God's plan in Creation  
His desire to have fellowship with humans  
Created them in His image – Genesis 1:26-27
4. Sin brought death, separation – Gen. 3  
Necessitating work of Redemption – Gen 3:15  
Providing regeneration of human spirit– Jn. 3:3-8
5. God's Son is the Word of Life – John 1  
He is the ultimate revelation from God
6. Fellowship is based upon Jesus Christ  
He came to reveal God to humans – John 1:18  
He came to redeem humans for God  
Fellowship is now based upon His finished work
7. John is an eyewitness to work of Christ  
He heard, saw, handled the "Word of Life"  
Disciples were recipients of this revelation in Christ  
He can now testify to the Church of this truth
8. Jesus is God come in human flesh - Jn 1:14  
Some in John's time questioned this truth  
John testifies to this truth as eyewitness  
Eternal Son has now come as a human

### **II. Bond of Fellowship – 1:3**

1. Christ binds this fellowship together  
He is central theme of John's message  
As a witness he declares Christ to his readers
2. John wants them to be part of this fellowship  
This is his purpose in making Christ known  
This fellowship is open to all who will believe
3. Christ's work reconciles us to God

This fellowship is more than a human organization

It is a fellowship with God – purchased by Christ

It is a fellowship that focuses on Jesus Christ

### **III. Blessing of Fellowship – 1:4**

1. This fellowship brings fullness of joy  
Purpose for Christ's coming – John 15:11
2. Reconciliation brings joy  
Joy of cleansing and forgiveness  
Joy of restored fellowship with God  
Joy of an assured eternal future
3. Finding meaning & purpose brings joy  
Realization of purpose in creation  
Satisfying relationship brings joy – Psa. 16:11  
Serving Christ brings joy & satisfaction