

The First Epistle of John

Life and Fellowship

1 John 1:1-4

1. **The Word of Life** (1 John 1:1-3)

Jesus is the Word of Life who speaks the words of eternal life (cf. John 6:68); one cannot truly know the Word of Life while rejecting the words of life He spoke.

A. **The Eternal Life** (vs.1a, 2b)

While the Son of God clothed Himself in human flesh at a point in history (cf. John 1:14), the Word of Life was with the Father prior to this event (cf. John 1:1). Sharing in eternal life is a gift given by God to those who trust in Jesus (cf. 1 John 2:25; 5:11-12).

B. **The Manifested Life** (vs.1-2a)

John remembers Jesus' life with the vividness of someone who experienced life together with Him (cf. John 13:23).

C. **The Proclaimed Life** (v.3)

The apostles were commanded to proclaim the life and message of Jesus to the rest of the world (cf. Matt 28:19). The content of what they proclaimed was specifically chosen in order that the hearer might apprehend, comprehend, and believe in Jesus (cf. John 20:31; 21:25).

2. **Fellowship** (1 John 1:3)

Fellowship is an ongoing relationship, a partnership, with those who share a common bond. The introduction to this particular fellowship is the reception of the message proclaimed (v.3), while walking in the light (v.7) and loving the brethren (1 John 3:14-15) are evidences that this fellowship is a reality.

A. **Fellowship with Other Christians** (v.3a)

Everyone who hears and believes the message of the gospel have fellowship with one another (cf. Rom 3:22; Gal 3:28; Col 3:11; Eph 2:14).

B. **Fellowship with God** (v.3b)

Christians are brought into fellowship with God in a personal way (cf. v.7). Through the gospel, we have fellowship with the Father (v.3b), with the Son (v.3c) and with the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Cor 13:14).

3. **The Purposes of John's Writing.**

A. **Joy:** That Our Joy May Be Made Complete (1 John 1:4)

B. **Holiness:** That You May Not Sin (1 John 2:1)

C. **Assurance:** That You May Know that You Have Eternal Life (1 John 5:13)