

Questions

1. What are some ways that community and fellowship have helped you during times of hardship, temptation, or sorrow?
2. First John 1:1 speaks of "That which was from the beginning," and not "He who was from the beginning." Why does that matter? What did it seem that John was communicating by "that which"?
3. Throughout eternity, the Father, Son, and Spirit have experienced perfect fellowship. Jesus revealed the fellowship of the Godhead to man. What does it mean to you that you can enter into that kind of fellowship with God?
4. What are practical ways that you can cultivate fellowship with God? What are things you do that hinder your fellowship with God?
5. What's similar between 1 John 1:4 and what Jesus said in John 15:9-11? What are some ways that you experience joy in your relationship with Jesus? How can participating in a community of believers enhance that experience?

After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.

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A Sermon Series on 1 John

ASSURANCE

Fellowship and Joy

1 John 1:1-4

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The introduction to 1st John shows us that John wants his readers to experience fellowship and joy. His testimony is meant to assure us that we can have fellowship with God and he writes so that we would experience great joy.

First John speaks often of the knowledge of Jesus and His gospel to:

1. Confront false teachings about Jesus.
2. Assure God's people of the truth they have believed.

First John has similarities in words and themes to the Gospel of John (cf. 1 John 1:1-2 and John 1:1-3, 14).

John uses a neuter pronoun in verse 1 instead of a masculine pronoun ("That which" instead of "He who"). His emphasis is on more than just the person of Jesus. It is the whole gospel message that is in focus.



1. John testified of the eternal life that the Son possesses and has revealed to man, and he verifies that testimony by what he saw, heard, and touched (1:1-2).

The eternal took on flesh and was seen, heard, touched, and proclaimed.

3. The believer experiences the fullness of that fellowship with God by prioritizing that relationship, by spending time with Jesus (meditating on the Word and praying), and by humbling confessing sin and seeking help.

2. John proclaimed His testimony so that his readers could experience fellowship with others and ultimately with God Himself (1:3).

4. John wrote so that his readers could experience joy in Christ (1:4).