

Jesus: our foundation
for love & life.

(1 John 1:1-4)

Big Idea: Jesus is our foundation for love and life, so cultivate your relationship with him and enjoy fellowship with one another.

That 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-- ² the 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--

³ that 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. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Big Idea: Jesus is our foundation for love and life, so cultivate your relationship with him and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Jesus is the basis for our love and life.

1. Trust the eyewitnesses (vv. 1, 3).
2. God wants a relationship (vv. 1-2).
3. God made us for fellowship (v. 3).
4. Sharing Christ results in joy (v. 4).

1. Trust the eyewitnesses (vv. 1, 3).

“That 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 ... ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you”

We can trust the Bible.

- i. The writers are eyewitnesses.
- ii. Eyewitnesses died for their testimony.
- iii. The church reliably transmitted scripture.
- iv. Scholars have accurately translated scripture.

Because we can trust the Bible:

- i. You can know God through the Scriptures.
- ii. We do not need extra revelation.
- iii. Speak where the Bible speaks.
- iv. Remain silent where the Bible is silent.

2. God wants a relationship (vv. 1-2).

“That 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-- ² the 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—”

Relationship with God, through Jesus.

- i. Jesus became flesh so we could know God (Jn 1:14, 18).
- ii. The gospel is about relationship (Rom 8:14f).
- iii. Salvation rests in Jesus, not religion (v. 2).
- iv. God wants us to know Jesus' humanity and divinity (Heb 4:15; Col 1:15-20).

Begin/build your relationship today.

- i. Pray regularly (1Thess 5:17).
- ii. Study the Bible (2Tim 3:16-17).
- iii. Confess your sins (1Jn 1:8-10).
- iv. Forgive your brothers (Eph 4:30-32).

3. God made us for fellowship (v. 3).

“³ that 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.”

Fellowship with God.

- i. God wants fellowship (John 3:16).
- ii. God helps us (Ex 33:14; Josh 1:5; Heb 13:5-6).
- iii. God empowers us (Phil 4:13).
- iv. Fellowship with others depends on fellowship with God (John 14:23, 17:21-23).

Fellowship with one another.

- i. Proclaim what you have received (v. 3; John 20:21).
- ii. Desire others to join the fellowship.
- iii. Support each other (Gal 5:13, 6:2).
- iv. Work to repair broken fellowship (James 4:1-2; Matt 5:23-24; 18:15f).

4. Enjoy life with Jesus (v. 4).

“⁴ And we are writing these things so that [y]our joy may be complete.”

These things are written ...

- i. Joy begins with relationship and fellowship (v. 4).
- ii. Holiness builds our joy (v. 2:1).
- iii. Correct doctrine maintains our joy (v. 2:26).
- iv. Assurance of salvation causes joy (5:13).

Joy results from a relationship with God and fellowship with one another. Today, how can you strengthen fellowship or relationship to increase your joy?