

# 1 John 1:1-4

1/14/19

As we begin to consider the book of 1 John, it is important to consider John's purpose. He states it in verses 3-4 of chapter 1.

**“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. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”**

What a statement, and what a purpose statement for his life and his readers' lives! John wants his readers to have fellowship with him and the other apostles or believers. In turn John's fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. Fellowship is something shared. It is something that people have in common. Some English synonyms might be participation, partnership, communion. Think of communion – it is a shared experience of remembering the death of Jesus.

What John desires for his readers is that they would share something with those who are in Christ. As John describes, the “what” they are sharing is the very life of Christ. John desires that his readers would participate in and with him and the apostles as they share in or participate in the life of Christ. He is proclaiming to his readers that Jesus is the Christ so that they might participate in His life.

It reminds us of the purpose statement that John gave for writing his Gospel of John. We read it in **John 20:30-31**.

**“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”**

The foundational truth or reality about which John is writing is that spiritual life – life “from above” (**John 3:3**) – is only found in Jesus Christ. He is the bearer of and the giver of life. It is difficult to describe what that life means. Words are not enough. It would be like describing a sunset to someone who is blind. I saw a news story about some glasses that allow color blind people to see color. They filmed people as they saw color for the first time; in nearly every case the people wept. The experience was so overwhelming – it was almost as if their eyes came to life. The beauty of color was unexplainable until they experienced it.

What John desires for his readers is the deep abiding joy that comes from what David Jackman describes as **“the conscious possession of eternal life, the daily enrichment of personal fellowship with the living God, the deepening awareness of oneness with all God's people everywhere.”** I really like that statement. That is the fellowship that John is describing, and the result of that fellowship is joy. God's joy is the byproduct of fellowship with the Father and Son and with other believers. It is a conscious possession that permeates our thinking and daily experience.

My prayer is that as we read this letter, we gain a new and deepening awareness of the life we have in Christ and in each other.

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

1. How would you explain life in Christ?
2. In your experience, is fellowship a conscious possession of eternal life? By that, I mean, is your experience in the forefront of your thinking on an ongoing basis?
3. Does your walk with God include a daily, deepening awareness of personal fellowship with the living God, and a deepening awareness of oneness with God's people?
4. Whatever your answer, why do you think that is?