

Context to 1 John:

- Author: John the Apostle (writer of Gospel of John + 1,2,3, John + Revelation)
- Much of 1 John → John 13-17
- Audience: house churches in Ephesus
- Purpose: growing movement of Gnosticism;
John is reminding them of "what they have already heard" (see 1 John 1v5, 4v11)

1 John 1:1-3

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— 3 what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

John 1:1-2,14

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning...The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14 (MSG)

"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood..."

Textual Criticism:

"the scholarly process of examining and comparing different versions and variations of a text, to identify the validation of the writings being observed."

"The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for our salvation. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice." (C&MA Statement of Faith, section 1.4)

1 John 1:3-4

3 what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

"What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."
(Westminster Shorter Catechism)

Fellowship (*koinonia*): "partnership, participation, communion"



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- John has *heard, seen, observed,* and *felt* the Word of Life. How have you heard from God, seen His faithfulness, observed His goodness, and felt His presence in your life? Take some time to reflect and praise God for who He is!
- Is Jesus an accessory in your life or is he Lord? If he’s Lord, what in your life would need to change in order for you to have fellowship with the Godhead?
- John also declared what he had experienced to *others*. Who in your life hasn’t experienced fellowship with God that desperately needs to hear the Gospel? Take time to pray for them + ask God to open Gospel doors with that person.

NEXT STEPS

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