

Let's Dismiss our Kids!



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Our Text:

I John 1:1-2:2!

Our Title:

***The Conditions Needed For
Fellowship!***

The Introduction to 1st John!

Let's begin by building on some of the things we talked about when we first began our journey in the book (two weeks ago)!

This book is an intensely practical book!

(Negative)

It focuses on the horrible effects of false teaching made by false teachers who have entered into the church.

(Positive)

It also build on the blessings that come to believers who know the truth and are willing to apply it to their lives.

This book is filled with words of warning, wisdom, truth!

Let's Look at the Text!

1 John 1:1-2:2!



The Theme of First John!

FELLOWSHIP / 1:3!

But John does not begin his teaching by focusing on the kind of fellowship believers have with their brothers and sisters in Christ. Rather he begins by focusing on the fellowship the apostles had with Christ when He walked on earth. His goal is to make the believer aware that he can “today” experience the same fellowship that the apostles had when they walked, and talked, and beheld the glory of God in the Person of Christ!

John will point out that a believer’s vertical relationship with God is directly linked to his horizontal relationship with those around him!

The Outline for First John!

To help us understand how true fellowship with God is gained, John will focus on five foundational principles necessary for true fellowship to take place!

- 1. (1:1-2:2) The CONDITIONS necessary for fellowship!***
- 2. (2:3-27) The CONDUCT resulting from fellowship!***
- 3. (2:28-3:24) The CHARACTERISTICS
produced by fellowship!***
- 4. (4:1-21) The CAUTIONS when seeking fellowship!***
- 5. (5:1-21) The CONSEQUENCES of true fellowship!***

The Setting of the Book!

According to the early church fathers (Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, and Eusebias) John pens his letter while pastoring the church in Ephesus. He is writing to the churches scattered throughout the Roman providence of Asia Minor (today is Turkey).



The Scene of the Book!

The scene is that of an aging apostle standing all alone communicating the message given to him by Christ (all the other apostles have died). His purpose for writing is to warn the believers of false teachers who have infiltrated the church of God, causing their fellowship with God to be broken. His desire is to pass on his God given wisdom, which promises a lasting fellowship with God through faith in Christ, and the assurance of eternal life.



The Struggle of the Believer!

Attacks From Within and From Without!

***From Without:
The Domitian Persecutions / 81AD!***



The Struggle of the Believer!

Attacks From Within and From Without!

***From Within:
The Teaching of Gnosticism!***

All matter is inherently evil and that which is of the spirit (mind / higher knowledge) is inherently pure (sins of the flesh / unimportant)!

Therefore Jesus was not a true man! Being pure, He would never take on evil flesh. He only appeared to be human so that – that which is sinful (mankind) could understand that which is good and pure (the spirit or mind).

Today's Sermon Outline!

I. (1:1-2:2) The **CONDITIONS** necessary
for fellowship!

A. (1:1) An understanding of the **Incarnation!**

1. The **Teaching!**

Without a correct understanding of who Christ is, (He was truly flesh and blood) it is impossible to have true fellowship with God. To drive this point home, John begins by going back to the very beginning. He will then lead us up to the time of Christ's incarnation.

Today's Sermon Outline!

A. (1:1) An understanding of the **Incarnation!**

2. The **Theology!**

Builds on the message received by the apostles when they were with the Incarnate One:

a. *John builds on Paul's teaching ...*

“He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in heaven and on earth, visible an invisible ... He is before all things (Creator), and in Him all things hold together (Sustainer). ” (Colossians 1:15-17)

Today's Sermon Outline!

A. (1:1) An understanding of the **Incarnation!**

2. The **Theology!**

Builds on the message received by the apostles when they were with the Incarnate One:

*b. **John builds on his own teaching (John) ...***

“In the beginning was the Word (cf. I John 1:1), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was Life (cf. I John 1:1) and the Life was the Light of men. (cf. I John 1:5)

Today's Sermon Outline!

A. (1:1) An understanding of the ***Incarnation!***

B. (1:2) An understanding of the ***Manifestation!***

1. The ***Teaching*** – builds on the fact that Jesus chose His disciples, while the heretics appointed themselves. Here John points out that the Unknowable and Unapproachable God manifested Himself to the apostles so that the truth about His Son would ***not*** be corrupted (which was the very thing that was now taking place in the churches throughout Asia Minor).

Today's Sermon Outline!

- A. (1:1) An understanding of the ***Incarnation!***
 - B. (1:2) An understanding of the ***Manifestation!***
2. The ***Theology*** – continues to build on the truth that Jesus (cf. 1:1 / the Word of Life) became flesh and blood and revealed Himself to His chosen apostles so that they would know, first hand, the truth of the Gospel Message – Jesus became man to pay in full the debt of sinful mankind! And the apostles understood this when God manifested Himself to them in the Incarnation of Jesus!

Today's Sermon Outline!

C. (1:3-4) An understanding of the Proclamation!

1. The Teaching – Twofold / Revealed by “so that!”

a. (v.3) So that **you** might experience the same fellowship that we had with Jesus!

b. (v.4) So that **our** joy might be made complete!

1.) The joy (fellowship) that we (the apostles) experienced when we walked and talked with God's incarnate One, we want to pass on to you!

2.) Our desire is for you to fully know Jesus the way that we (apostles) knew Jesus. (And His joy is not gained through some special insight.) It is found only in God's Gospel message (incarnation)! *

Today's Sermon Outline!

C. (1:3-4) An understanding of the **Proclamation!**

D. (1:5-10) An understanding of the **Revelation!**

1. (1:5-9) The **Teaching** – Indirect Discourse!

a. (v.5) The **Revealing** of the Incarnation:

As we spent time with Jesus, it became clear to us that Christ came to shed light on God's truth – that's why the Incarnate One was manifested before us! (Exodus 20 / Romans / Matthew 5:17 / I Corinthians 15:1-3)

Today's Sermon Outline!

1. (1:5-9) The **Teaching** – Indirect Discourse!

a. (v.5) The **Revealing** of the Incarnate One.

b. (vs.6-7) The **Recognition** of the true believer:

1.) (v.6) True believers **don't** walk in darkness. 2.) (v.7) True believers **do** walk in the Light. *



Today's Sermon Outline!

1. (1:5-9) The Teaching – Indirect Discourse!

a. (v.5) The Revelation of the Incarnate One.

b. (vs.6-7) The Recognition of a true believer.

c. (vs.8-9) The Reaction of the heretic:

The Gnostic taught that it was proper to feed the flesh so that the spirit could mature. Here John challenges their teachings. *

1.) (v.8) The Gnostic's teaching = Condemnation!

2.) (v.9) The Apostle's teaching = Light / Grace!

Today's Sermon Outline!

D. (1:5-10) An understanding of the **Revelation!**

1. (1:5-9) The **Teaching** – Indirect Discourse!

2. (1:10) The **Theology** –

When we reject the incarnation, we reject our need for God's grace. And when we reject our need for His grace, we make God a liar and deny the truth proclaimed by God in the sacred Scriptures.



Today's Sermon Outline!

D. (1:5-10) An understanding of the **Revelation!**

E. (2:1-2) An understanding of true **Fellowship!**

After pointing out the untrue message of the apostate, and after proclaiming the truth of God's Gospel, John explains the process that brings about true fellowship!

1. (2:1) The **Teaching** – The sinner has hope only
in the Savior!
 - a. I am writing **to** those who belong to Christ.
 - b. I am writing **to** end your willingness to sin.
 - c. I am writing **to** everyone because we all sin.
 - d. I am writing **to** remind you / we have an Advocate!

Today's Sermon Outline!

D. (1:5-10) An understanding of the **Revelation!**

E. (2:1-2) An understanding of true **Fellowship!**

After pointing out the untrue message of the apostate, and after proclaiming the truth of God's Gospel, Paul explains the process that brings about true fellowship!

1. (2:1) The **Teaching** – The sinner has hope
in the Savior!
2. (2:2) The **Theology** – The sinner has hope through
the propitiation of Jesus
(to cover or satisfy). The debt owed to God (because
of sin) has been covered over (hidden) by Christ's
death, burial, and resurrection. (cf. John 3:16)

Two Closing Question and Answers!

Question. What is the source of the believer's fellowship with God (vertical) and man (horizontal)?

Answer. The believer's fellowship with God begins with a correct understanding of Christ's incarnation: Jesus, the Savior, was manifest before us in the flesh! This will affect those around us.



Two Closing Question and Answers!

Question. How can I know for sure that I have this kind of fellowship (vertical) with God the Father?

Answer. Is clearly proclaimed in 3:3f! But you'll have to come back next week to hear what the apostle has to say!

