

Being on one accord with God

1 John 1:1-4

- It has been at least 50 yrs since Jesus had walked the earth, and by this time The Apostle John was not only up in age, but he was the last of the Apostles as all the other Apostles had been martyred for the faith. Don't take that the wrong way although John is still alive it wasn't from a lack of trying.
- You see after they tried to boil him in hot oil, but he wouldn't burn, they exiled him to the Island Patmos where he writes this letter, a sort of house arrest so to speak. Many thought John would be alive until Jesus returned because of **Jn 21:23**- where Jesus said to Peter "**If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee**".
- So he was watched very closely, I suspect anytime John would catch a cold or have the sniffles, word would go around the Christian network that this could be it, get ready, Christ is returning, and then he'd recover folks would say "**all man**".
- According to historians John would be taken from church to church throughout the region of Asia Minor, which is modern day Turkey, and crowds would gather full of expectation and anticipation of what the last of those hand picked by Jesus had to say. Surely he would have some incredible insights mixed in with some supernatural foresight to encourage them all.
- Yet time after time in place after place it is said that John would stand to his feet, look out over the crowd and utter 1 sentence: "Little children Love one another" And then afterward He'd leave. Wow! A 1 sentence sermon, how many would like that this morning?
- Unfortunately I'm more like the Apostle Paul than I am John when it comes to preaching. John was known as the Apostle of love, the one who leaned upon Jesus breast, but he didn't start out that way, in fact initially Jesus had given him and his brother James the nickname "**sons of thunder**" according to **Mk 3:17**.
- Because John and his brother response to those who resisted the gospel was not to call upon the Lord to have mercy on them, but to call down fire to consume them. Jesus says "I did not come to destroy men's lives I came to save them" **Lk 9:56**.

V1-4

- John's 1st epistle separates itself into 3 main sections
 1. The light of God- chapter 1-2
 2. The love of God- chapters 3-4
 3. The life of God- chapter 5

- This is important because John is going to address the main problem plaguing the church at this time (false teaching). **Acts 20:28-31**- the Apostle Paul had prophesied that from within the church people would deviate from the truth into secular philosophies mixed with humanism in order to gather a following.
- This had occurred with a group called the **Gnostics**; their name came from the Greek word ginosko- which means knowledge or to know. They claimed to have special revelation into spiritual things, and 1 of the things they claimed was that all matter was evil so it was impossible for the messiah to have a physical body.
- **V1** John is refuting what these false teachers were saying about Jesus, John says
 1. We've heard Him
 2. We've seen Him
 3. We've handled Him
- John says we were eyewitnesses of His glory, and His majesty, but you have not really heard Him, or seen Him for Who He really is, neither have you handled Him and felt His love and acceptance, for if you had you could never be teaching and leading people astray as you are.
- So John says this is "that which is from the **beginning**"- the vanishing point. He begins where **Gen 1:1**, started, in the beginning God, if we just pondered this for a moment, I believe most of our problems would cease.
- Because man replaces God with intellect, power, money, he can't grasp the concept that God alone should be listened to, obeyed, and revered, so because he rejects this we have all these false concepts of truth. **V2** you can hear that John has had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, I've heard Him speak, I've watched Him live, I was there when He healed the lepers and raised the dead, He was not a phantom or a vision, but God in human form.
- **V3** once you have experienced Jesus for yourself you cannot help but want to share Him with others, "Him Who we've seen and heard we declare to you". To you who are teaching lies, and to you who are believing lies, it's counterfeit to the One I'm declaring to you.
- For the purpose is so you may have "**fellowship**" As sinners men have nothing in common with a Holy God, so God in His grace sent His Son to pay the price for our sins—**2Pet 1:4**- when we trust Christ we become **partakers** of the divine nature. The Greek word for **fellowship**- koinonia, but **partakers** is the same Greek root that's translated fellowship in **V3** here.
- **V4** John gives the 1st of 4 reasons why his epistle should be read--- "**that our joy may be full**". Joy is different than happiness, happiness deals with circumstances and emotions; **joy** on the other hand deals with Jesus and the spirit.

- One is based upon outward circumstances, the other is based upon inward peace, one comes and goes, the other should be constant. **Ps 16:11**- David says “in thy presence is fullness of joy”. Here is the answer to all who claim the Christian life is boring, because the Christian walk is primarily about fellowship with Jesus to say it is boring is to say Jesus is boring, and His fellowship produces emptiness, and we know that’s not true. The old acrostic is still true
 1. **J stands for Jesus**- Joy starts 1st with our relationship with Him
 2. **O stands for others**- the way to misery is to focus on self, to cater to self, to analyze and worry about self, we need to lay aside self and embrace others.
 3. **Y stands for you**- last in the equation but certainly not forgotten, when you’re not talking about yourself, thinking about yourself, burdening others with your situation and circumstances, and asking what can I do to die to self that my Lord may live through me, then Joy will reign in you.
- **Conclusion:** The longer you walk with the Lord the simpler things get concerning the Lord, and because John had been around and has seen a lot in his service to the Lord, Christianity had came down to 3 basic things for him in his later yrs.
 1. **Jesus**
 2. **Obedience**
 3. **Love**
- If we are to grow into full maturity these 3 things are absolutely essential for us to understand and apply to our lives.