

Reflecting on 1 John 1:1-4

July 26, 2020

Introduction: In this week's study, we take an introductory look at the letter of 1 John. In the opening four verses of this epistle, John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, clearly declares Jesus' identity (He is both God and man) and joyfully shares two privileges of following Christ:

1. Because of Jesus, believers have fellowship with God
2. Because of Jesus, believers have fellowship with one another

Discussion Questions:

1. One preacher used to describe Jesus in this way: "Jesus was the only man who had a heavenly Father, but no heavenly mother; who had an earthly mother but no earthly father; who was older than his mother and who was as old as his Father."

Why is it so important to acknowledge that the deity of Jesus Christ; that he is fully God and therefore, eternal?

2. While we must confess that Jesus is fully God, it is also important to note that he is also fully man; that is, God in human flesh. How is Christ's humanity significant to a proper understanding of the Gospel?

3. Read these passages from Mark and John's Gospels to answer the following questions: **Mark 14:32-35; John 14:21-25; 19:25-27; 21:20-24**

- Based on these passages, how did John interact with Jesus up close as he describes in 1 John 1:1?
- What do these passages teach us about the kind of relationships Jesus' disciples enjoyed with their Savior?

- How does a modern day believer's relationship with God mirror the twelve disciples' relationship with Jesus? (Hint: Consider Jesus' words in John 13:34-35)

4. John opens his letter, like his Gospel, with a clear focus on Jesus Christ (see 1 John 1:1-4 as well as John 1:1-5). However, John later explains that his purpose for writing is so that his readers would enjoy fellowship with God and with other believers (see vss. 3-4).

- Explain how an accurate knowledge of Christ is crucial to having fellowship with God.
- Explain how fellowship with other believers is equally vital to having a right relationship with God.

5. Note: Each of the following questions is intended to have a two-part answer.

- How would you rate your “fellowship” right now with God and God’s people?
- When do you feel closest to the Lord and your church family?
- What challenges or temptations might be keeping you from deeper fellowship?
- What steps will you take this week to pursue a deeper relationship with God and His people?