

Circles of Truth: Jesus

1 John 1:1-4

Introduction:

- A. Welcome and Scripture Reader
- B. Read 1 John 1:1-4 (ESV).
- C. Today's lesson is deeply rooted in theology and practicality.
 - 1. Theology – Jesus is God is flesh
 - 2. Practicality – That changes everything about my life.
- D. That's John's point in these circles of truth.
 - 1. The first circle is foundational.
 - 2. Truth hits. It expand and get deeper.
- E. Today's Circle of Truth: Jesus.
- F. A bit about the layout and structure of our text that will help us.
 - 1. In Greek, 1:1-3 is one long sentence that has been described as tangled.
 - 2. The subject and verb of this long sentence don't occur until the middle part of the sentence, thus there is a lot before and after. (this would have been a booger of a sentence to diagram)
 - 3. We will start from the middle, move to beginning, then land at the end.
- I We Proclaim Jesus - 1:3a** *“that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you,”*
 - A. The word *“proclaim”* though common is an interesting word.
 - 1. There is a message to be communicated and it has been committed to a person or group of people to tell it.
 - 2. It is also closely related to the word for gospel (good news; literally, proclaiming good news).
 - B. Being over 100 years old, John is probably the only original disciple that is left on Earth.
 - 1. Yet despite his age, he continues to proclaim Jesus.
 - 2. Despite the opposition he is encountering, he is still proclaiming Jesus.
 - C. 2000 years later Jesus is still being proclaimed.

II What Does John Proclaim About Jesus? 1:1

- A. He was before Creation *That which was from the beginning 1:1a*
- B. He Was Experienced On Earth - 1:1b
 - 1. *Which we have heard* – he had a voice
 - 2. *Which we have seen* – visible
 - 3. *Which we have look upon*
 - 4. *Touched with our hands*
- C. He is the Word of Life – *Concerning the Word of Life 1:1c*
 - 1. Big statement here.
 - 2. Word – more than the spoken word but the mind and essence of God is revealed. Logos of God
 - 3. Life – more than biological life; eternal life; spiritual rebirth.
 - 4. John 1:4 - In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
 - 5. Over and over John will use this phrase to point to Jesus.

III How Was This Possible? How Was Jesus Able To Be Experienced On Earth? 1:2

- A. Jesus Become Flesh – 1:2
 - 1. *“Life was manifest, and we have seen it”*- 1:2a
 - 2. *“and testify to it”* – 1:2b “
 - 3. *“..The eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us”*- 1:2c
 - a. *Eternal life*” - Life that gives life and does not end
 - b. *Was with the Father* – means he wasn’t here. He was in Heaven.
 - c. *And was made manifest to us* – Now he is here. Same word as before; was hidden but now known.
 - 4. The same eternal life that brought life into the world at creation, is now revealed to us.
 - 5. He makes available eternal life because he is eternal life and eternal life flow from him.
- B. Incarnation - it’s a word we use a lot but don’t want to assume anything.
 - 1. Come from an old Latin word meaning “in flesh”.

2. The Greek of John 1:14, indicates that Jesus began to exist in flesh and remains in flesh.
3. This is an essential teaching of Christianity.
 - a. Along with the resurrection from the dead, the incarnation of Jesus, God becoming flesh, it's what makes us unique from the rest of the world's religions.
 - b. There is no resurrection from the dead if there is no incarnation.

C. Now let's be clear...(Brief toe into Trinitarian Theology)

1. He is still Deity – Colossians 2:9 - *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,*
2. He is still human – 1 Timothy 2:5 - *For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,*
3. Just because he became human does not mean he stopped being God.
4. He still has the same: Refer to How Great is Our God Class
 - a. Honors
 - b. Attributes
 - c. Names
 - d. Deeds
 - e. Seats

D. Why is this important? Positive Side

1. It was the only way for our sins to be forgiven.
2. Further, it was the only way the Eternal God could experience death.
3. It was the only way for us to have an appropriate High Priest.
4. The sacrifice of Jesus started before the cross.

E. Why is this important? Negative side

1. Denial of the Deity of Jesus is dangerous at different levels.
 - a. Full our right denial of Jesus as Deity still happens.
 - b. He was a prophet, rabbi, good moral man.
 - c. While he was all those, if we stop there, we are still in our sin. We still have no hope.

- d. There is a large portion or our very small world that believes this. They try to find other ways around their sin, but it does not work.
- e. Leads to other false doctrines that can't be lived out.
 - (1) Hedonism
 - (2) Asceticism
 - (3) Legalism – mainly what other Religious systems are.
- 2. Flippancy – “yes he’s the son of God”, but don’t live like it matters. Leads to...
 - a. Shallow faith
 - b. Doubt
 - c. Apathy

IV What does the mean for us? Let’s Get our minds around the practical side. 1:3b-4

- A. Because we know Jesus, we can have fellowship.
 - 1. We have fellowship.
 - 2. Back in the Fall of 2025, we made several points from the text about our fellowship that I want to remind us of today with a few additions.
 - 3. Our fellowship with each other is based in the gospel. *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. 1 John 1:3b*
 - a. Who Jesus is, God in flesh, what he has done, is doing and will do in the future is the foundation on which our fellowship stands.
 - b. It’s the glue that holds us together.
 - 4. Our fellowship is shared with the Godhead (Trinity) *And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.* It’s with the Father and the Son and each other. Paul, in Philippians 2:1, adds the Holy Spirit in this fellowship as well.
 - a. This goes much deeper than association because of similar likes, dislikes, hobbies or where we live.
 - b. Drills down to the level of who God is and my identity in him.
 - 5. From these verses we see that fellowship and identity are related.
 - a. Our identity is with Christ who is fully human and fully God.

- b. This identity becomes further solidifies with the common community of believers.
6. Identity is a big buzz word today.
- a. We hear questions like
 - (1) “What is your identity?
 - (2) Who or what do you identify with?
 - (3) Moral and ethical questions of “can you change your identity?”
 - b. While in and of themselves, these are not bad questions, they often start in the wrong place and therefore connect the wrong dots forming the wrong picture.
 - c. Some truths about identity:
 - (1) Identity is given.
 - (2) Identity is given by God.
 - (3) Identity is solidified in community with other people.
 - (4) Identity is more than our roles, hobbies or occupations it is our very being.
 - (5) Identity becomes clearer as Jesus become clearer.
 - d. Psalm 139 speaks to this:
 - (1) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-16 ESV . *O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. ... For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*
 - (2) Bottom line: I am a fearfully divinely formed human being made in the image of God. The more I know him and follow him, the

clearer my identity becomes. God has given me the capability to grow, learn, be creative, build and adapt, thus experiencing his transformation in my life.

- e. Our identity is rooted in our fellowship with Godhead and with each other.
 - f. This is an identity that can be lived out. It can be practiced. It is consistent.
- B. Because we know Jesus, we have fullness of joy. 1:4
- 1. Joy is that quality of the Holy Spirit in which growth takes place.
 - 2. It's bigger than our circumstances. It's bigger than our temporary emotions.
 - 3. It's has to do with my eternal perspective on my life based in my relationship with the Jesus
 - 4. Knowing Jesus is knowing joy.

Conclusion:

- A. Why write this deeply theological and practical book? Jesus!
 - 1. Jesus is the starting point for John's circles of truth.
 - 2. Everything else emanates from this foundational truth.
- B. Deeply rooted in theology because it strikes at the foundation of who Jesus is. The eternal life was with the Father and was made manifest to us.
- C. Deeply practical because who Jesus is determines everything about our life.
- D. Bottom line is Jesus. We Proclaim Jesus. We Know Jesus.
- E. Offer invite.