

Wednesday Night Yard Teaching Guide: 1 John 1:1–4

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.” (1 John 1:1–4)

Main Idea: Jesus was sent to bring us into fellowship with God for our joy.

Outline

- I. Jesus
 - A. John is an apostle who has heard, seen, and touched Jesus.
 - B. John’s message is that Jesus is fully God and fully man.
 - C. John had to defend the truth against those who denied that Jesus was embodied.
- II. Fellowship with God
 - A. Fellowship with God (or, union with Christ, cf. 1 John 5:20) is the undercurrent of the entire letter. Fellowship with God is a close, intimate union with God through Christ.
 - B. John the apostle proclaims Jesus. All those who hear his message with faith have fellowship with him and the apostles, and in turn have fellowship with God.
 - C. To have fellowship with God is to...
 1. ...be present to God, and God to us. The Father and the Son make their home with the one who loves them (John 14).
 2. ...have the same mission that God has.
- III. Fullness of Joy
 - A. The apostles have fullness of joy because they are introducing their best friend (Jesus) to other friends (those who will listen), and Jesus is befriending those who receive him.
 - B. We too can have fullness of joy in Christ (John 15:11).
 - C. Fellowship with God is fullness of joy because to be friends with Christ is to befriend the one who made you.
 - D. God has made us for himself, and it is only through Christ that we can be reconciled to God and enjoy fellowship with him.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think of John's claim that he "touched," "saw," and "heard" Jesus? Does that give you confidence in the truth about Jesus?
2. What do you think about your salvation? Do you think it means merely going to heaven when you die, or entailing close fellowship with God?
3. If you are in Christ, you already have fellowship with God. Do you feel close to God? How do you spend time with him?
4. Having fellowship with God also means having the same mission as God. What is God's mission? How are you a part of it?
5. Do you experience fellowship with God? If so, how? Are there certain times when or activities in which you experience such fellowship most?
6. Do you proclaim Jesus to your friends like John did? Why or why not? What's scary about proclaiming Jesus? What's exhilarating about proclaiming him?
7. What does it mean for your daily life to have fullness of joy in Jesus?
8. What do you make of the fact that you were made for God? How does that impact your life?
9. How can you, your family, your life group, our youth group, or our church come to enjoy deeper fellowship with Jesus, and through this participate in God's mission?
10. Try reading and praying Psalm 63:1-8. How does this psalm connect to our passage?