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**Culture Continually Attempts To
Redefine Truth. God Never Changes.
Truth Starts With God.**



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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.



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CONTEXT SNAPSHOT

Author – John

- Former fisherman
- Inner circle with Jesus
- Present at the crucifixion
- Co-leader in Jerusalem on Day of Pentecost
- Author of 5 New Testament books
- Given the revelation



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CONTEXT SNAPSHOT

Author – John

Audience -

- The churches in the area of Ephesus

Date –

- No later than 90AD
- Church almost 60 years old



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TESTIMONY

John 1:1–5

The Beginning

- The Word
- The Word with and is God
- Creator of everything
- Life and light

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. [4] In him was life, and the life was the light of men. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



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TESTIMONY

The Beginning

Immanuel – God With Us

- The teaching of Christ
- The miracles witnessed
- The physical body of Christ



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TESTIMONY

The Beginning

Immanuel – God With Us

God's Plan Revealed

- God demonstrated His love for humanity before and through creation
- Intimacy with God
- Old Testament set the stage for the arrival of Jesus



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TESTIMONY

The Beginning

Immanuel – God With Us

God's Plan Revealed

Reality

- God's plan made known and witnessed by many
- God's was not a vision or a great idea



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TESTIMONY

The Beginning

Immanuel – God With Us

God's Plan Revealed

Reality

Eternal Life

- Born spiritual dead
- Through Jesus, eternal life for believers
- Knowing God now... and future glory to be known



42

FELLOWSHIP

Accepted Testimony Brings Fellowship

- From death to life
- From brokenness to wholeness



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FELLOWSHIP

Accepted Testimony Brings Fellowship

Fellowship With...

- Each other
 - Encouraging
 - Bearing
 - Serving

John 13:34–35

[34] “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



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FELLOWSHIP

Accepted Testimony Brings Fellowship

Fellowship With...

- Each other
- The Father and the Son
 - The barrier of sin
 - Jesus brings eternal life
 - Consider the past to now



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ROMANS 5:6-11

[6] For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—[8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. [10] For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. [11] More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.



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FELLOWSHIP

Accepted Testimony Brings Fellowship

Fellowship With...

God In Us

- Essential truth
- Facing trials
- Ability to grow
- Command to share



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Joy

JOHN 15:8-11

Defined

- Salvation is the root of joy
- Joy in obeying the Father
- Not based on salvation not circumstances

[8] “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. [9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”



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Joy

Defined

Struggles

- No one can avoid struggles
- Struggles grow faith



49

Joy

Defined

Struggles

Truth About God Brings Joy

- Knowing God
- Worshiping God
- Serving God



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**DO YOU STRUGGLE TO KNOW TRUTH
OR
DO YOU FIND JOY IN TRUTH?**

**DISCOVERING TRUTH LEADS TO SALVATION
KNOWING TRUTH LEADS TO GROWTH**

