

**LIVE – LIFE AND JOY**

**1 John 1:1-4**

**1 John**

John, the son of Zebedee and the disciple of Jesus Christ, is the author of this letter.

-He writes it no later than 90 AD so it is one of the last books of the Bible to be written.

-John is also the author of the Gospel of John and you will see many similarities between the two.

You will remember that John gave a very clear purpose statement for his writing of his Gospel narrative –

-20:31 – *“But these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

In this letter he gives a similar and equally clear purpose statement –

-5:13 – *“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

The Transformation Bible – “The bulk of John’s first letter is taken up with three tests of genuine faith: (1) the moral test – do you obey God’s commandments? (2) the doctrinal test – do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? (3) the love test – do you love God and his children? Early in the letter those tests appear distinctly, but as John proceeds they are increasingly intertwined into a unified picture of the truly gospel-transformed life.”

**Read 1 John 1:1-4**

**Pray**

**The Message**

“Experiencing the life of Christ compels you to share it with others that they might experience it too.”

**1 – Experiencing the life of Christ**

-v. 1 – *“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 subject is life – specifically the life of Jesus Christ –

-His life is being experienced, enjoyed and shared!

-5:11-12 – *“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

-You and I (and anyone else) can experience the life of Christ because of two realities –

-One – “That which was from the beginning”

-We can experience His life because He is God.

-Two – “Was made manifest to us”

-The word of life was an actual, real and physical man – Jesus Christ!

-We can experience the life of Christ because the One who is the eternal Son of God became a real, physical man in order to bridge the divide between God and man.

-Two Scriptures –

-1 Tim. 2:5, 6 – *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.”*

-Job 9:33 – *“There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.”*

-God communicates His life through Christ which is why He is the “word of life” (v.1).

**2 – Sharing the Message**

-The most natural response to experiencing the life of Christ is to share the message of His life with others –

-v. 2 – *“The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim it to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.”*

- John uses two words to describe the sharing of Christ –
  - “Testify” and “Proclaim”
- Testify has the idea of describing the validity of something or someone.
  - John and the other apostles, testify that Jesus is real – that He is the way, the truth and the life.
- Proclaim is used because we do more than testify that Jesus is true – we tell people they need Him!
  - He is good news that must be proclaimed so that He might be believed on!

### **3 – A Shared Experience**

- The hope of the gospel is that the life of Christ (and the Father) can be a shared experience.
  - And he uses two words to describe this shared experience – “fellowship” and “joy”!
  - vs. 3, 4 – *“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.”*
- The first word he uses is not surprising – “fellowship” –
  - When we experience the life of Christ we are part of a family – God’s family!
  - Prov. 3:3-4 – *“Never let loyalty and faithfulness leave you. Tie them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will find favor and high regard with God and people.”* (CSB)
    - The blessing of being part of a family is knowing that the loyalty and faithfulness of that family will never leave you.
  - The church is a true family – see 1 John 2:12-14 where John uses the imagery of a family to talk about the relationships in the church.
- The second word is a bit surprising – at first –
  - The word joy is translated from *chara* – This word is still used in the Greek speaking world as a friendly greeting – like we would say “good morning”.
  - It’s surprising because for the Greeks it was a “light and whimsical” word. (Earl Palmer)
    - I would use the word “jovial”.
  - I don’t think we like to think of anything Christian as light and whimsical.
    - I think John’s point is simply this – The life of Christ is the good life!
    - We’re not to be angry and hateful – We are not to be doom and gloom – We are not pessimistic and hopeless...
  - We are the people of love, joy, peace, goodness, faithfulness...
    - We are the people of hope and optimism...
- The Son of God, who is eternal life, has come down to share his life with all who will believe –

### **Application**

**1 – Take heart, your faith is rooted in history**

**2 – Enjoy the life of Christ so much that you can’t help but share it**

**3 – Live as people of joy**