

THE PLEASURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

I John 1:1-7 (NLT)

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Introduction: I John is a “sermon” about abiding in God's light and abiding in God's love.

I. A FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE (1-2)

I John 1:1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.² This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.

II. A FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE (3)

I John 1:3 We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

John 15:9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

[When riding a bike, which bike pedal (love or obedience) is the most important?]

III. A FELLOWSHIP OF JOY (4)

I John 1:4 We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.

A. Knowing Jesus is the greatest source of joy. So, great joy is found in Jesus, and Jesus is found in the Bible.

I Peter 1:8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

B. Beware of those who would steal our joy. The teachers of “false theology”. In that day, John spoke of Gnosticism.

1. “false theology” offers something better than the Bible or at the very least a specializes understanding of the Bible.
2. “false theology” purports to teach a way that will enable your desires to become God’s desires. There is a way to get God to serve you!
3. “false theology” often teaches that Jesus is your coworker (coequal) instead of your Lord and Master.
4. “false theology” teaches that God can be understood and negotiated with.

IV. A FELLOWSHIP OF LIGHT (5-7)

I John 1:5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶ So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. ⁷ But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

A. When the Christian Is “Born Again”

II Corinthians 5:15 He [Jesus] died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ ... At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

B. When the Christian Sins (Jason Helopoulos)

Every Christian sins. Every child of light stumbles into momentary darkness. In fact, few moments in life pain or discourage the Christian more than the instant we become conscious of having committed yet another sin against our heavenly Father. Surely, it grieves us. And at times, it can lead to anxiety, guilt, melancholy, embarrassment, and even depression for many Christians.

In the midst of such struggle, the Christian does well to remind themselves of the gospel comforts of Scripture.

1. Forgiveness is yours.
2. Peace is yours.
3. The guilt is not yours to carry.
4. The Father is yours.
5. Freedom is yours.
6. Christ's prayers are yours.

A repentant and confessing Christian has much to remind themselves of when they fall into sin.

Let us never forget that a God whose grace is sufficient for our past will be faithful in regards to His promises concerning our future.