

John opens his letter proclaiming that Jesus Christ was from the beginning of creation, manifested into this life to become **that eternal life** for us (v. 2). To understand and evaluate our eternal life is the main purpose of 1 John (5:13). These truths bring fellowship (*oneness*) with God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit of God, and each other (v. 3, 7) causing us to be full of joy. John now writes regarding what true fellowship is and what it is not. Jesus nicknamed John and his brother James the "Sons of Thunder," and while John certainly did grow to understand the deep love of Jesus Christ, today we are going to see him thunder out some very _____ declarations for us in love about true fellowship (Eph. 4:14-15).

DECLARATIONS ABOUT TRUE FELLOWSHIP – 1 John 1:5-7

1. True Fellowship begins with an Understanding about Light and Darkness – v. 5

- This _____ was given by the Lord Jesus Himself – John 1:4-5, 7-10; 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:5.
- This is an _____ understanding from beginning to end of the Bible – Gen. 1:3-5; Ps. 19:4-6, 104:1-2; Mal. 4:2; Matt. 13:43; Lk. 22:53; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 21:23, 22:5.

Light (John 1:7-10) =

Darkness (Acts 26:18) =

- **We become light** and are no longer in darkness after we have a _____ encounter with Jesus Christ at salvation – Acts 9:3; 22:6, 9; 2 Cor. 4:4-7; Col. 1:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:9.

2. True Fellowship is a Positional and Practical Reality – v. 6

- **If we** _____ we are in true fellowship with God, but are walking in darkness, we are liars – Amos 3:3; Eph. 5:8, 11, 13-14; Is. 5:20.
- Darkness in our lives... _____ (*small or great*) that are accepted, allowed, or excused away... breaks true fellowship with God and with one another – Matt. 6:22-24, 16:23; James 1:22, 4:4.

3. True Fellowship is Maintained by Walking in the Light – v. 7

- **If we walk** in the Light...getting _____ and honest with Jesus Christ daily through His Word and prayer...true fellowship is restored – Is. 2:5; James 4:8-10; Ps. 119:105; 2 Pet. 1:19.
- Jesus' blood takes care of _____ always **when we choose** to walk this way – Heb. 10:26.
- Lucifer (_____) was made to shine God's brilliance throughout the universe in eternity past. He chose to be darkness. When we choose to walk in darkness, there are far greater casualties than just our fellowship – Ezek. 28:12-19; Php. 2:15; 2 Cor. 4:3-4.