

Fellowship

1John 1:1-4

A Special Relationship

Relationship - Primarily a state of being which exists because of blood ties, legal ties or spiritual ties.

Fellowship - Primarily an act of sharing and participation. It must involve action on our part to maintain it.

Fellowship is a two-way street between God and man, which is entered by establishing a right relationship. I cannot be a sharer if I am not sharing

Have you established this relationship with God? And are you continuing in fellowship with God?

John helps us focus our efforts on our relationship with God so we can have fellowship with Him.

Focus On God

Begins as John's Gospel. States Jesus' deity. Both look "the beginning." - **John 1:1-3**

Here is also mention of evidence obtained by physical senses - **1John 1:1**

Thus, our faith has the assurance of eye, ear and hand witnesses.

Jesus told disciples "see" & "handle" that they might know - **Luke 24:38-39**

Hence, John could say like Peter - **2Peter 1:16-21**

Possible for physical senses to deceive; courts prefer multiple witnesses

Paul mentions over five hundred witnesses - **1Corinthians 15:5-8**

Apostles didn't deliver by hearsay, human tradition, or conjecture

Relationships are built on understanding

Giving attention to this evidence strengthens our relationship with God.

We understand who He is and what He wants from us

This is essential if we are to be in fellowship with Him

Through testimony of eye, ear & hand witnesses, we can have fellowship with the apostles (witnesses), the Father & the Son - **1John 1:3**

Such fellowship (which includes our forgiveness, adoption as children of God, promises of eternal life, etc.) is the completeness of joy - **1John 1:4**

Acting In Fellowship - 1John 1:5-10

The message from Jesus is that "God is light" - **1John 1:5**

God is the source of all light (physical and spiritual).

Those who obey God are "saints in the light" - **Colossians 1:12**

The Devil and his angels are spoken of as darkness - **Ephesians 6:12; Luke 22:53; Colossians 1:13**

There is no mixture of light and darkness with God.

Fellowship with God is based on walking in light - **Psalms 119:105; John 1:4-9; John 8:12**

Impossible to fellowship with God & walk in darkness - **1John 1:6**

Fellowship requires acting together

We may still have a 'relationship' with God, but if we are not active in living according to His light we are no longer in fellowship with Him - **1John 1:7**

If we walk in the light we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

This is not a one-time shot (baptism) but is continuous action.

We must continue walking in the light of God's word.

The one claiming sinlessness is deceived - **1John 1:8**

If "the truth is not in us" the blood of Jesus does not cleanse us.

In **verse 9**, we find our belief about **verse 8** strengthened.

Lenski translates it as "If we keep confessing our sins" (p. 392).

We are commanded to "confess our sins" to God - **1John 1:9**

This means far more than to say, "I have sinned." Present active

"We openly and honestly face sin without hiding it or finding excuses for it" (Kistemaker, p. 246).

To sin is to walk outside of our fellowship with God

To claim sinless perfection is to call God a liar - **1John 1:10**
Sin is a common denominator of all responsible individuals - **Romans 3:23**

Are You In Fellowship With God?

John impresses us with the need to work with God!

Our work with Him gives us confidence in our spiritual condition

1John should help us believe & know how to "walk in the light" with God - **1John 5:13**

Is your faith based on the eye, ear and hand witness of the apostles?

Are you walking in the light of God's word?

Do you "keep confessing" your sins?

If not, it may be a strong indication that you do not have eternal life.

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