

CONDITION OF FELLOWSHIP

1 JOHN 1

Text: 1 John 1

Introduction:

Unlike most other New Testament epistles this one has no salutation and no conclusion. The four verses of introduction correspond to the opening 18 verses of John's account of the Gospel.

(Read John 1:1-18)

Notice the two things in the introduction to this book.

1. THE PERSON (1 JOHN 1:1-2)

1 John 1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

John 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:4

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

2. THE PURPOSE (1 JOHN 1:3, 4)

1 John 1:3-4

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

A. Why was this message declared?

1. Seen and heard

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Fellowship is the purpose of this message and is the theme of the epistle.

Fellowship is exhibited by:

- Joy (vs 4)
- Generosity

Acts 2:45

And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

Romans 15:26

For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

2 Cor. 8:4

Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

2 Cor. 9:13

Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection into the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

1 Tim. 6:18

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Fellowship is the basis of Joy

- Fellowships Condition (1 John 1:5-10)
 - Conformity to a Standard (5-7)

1 John 1:5-7

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

- Christ is our standard.

The requirement for fellowship is to let the light reveal right and wrong and then respond to that light continually.

- Confession of Sin (8-10)

1 John 1:8-10

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- Confession of the principle Sin.

John 9:41

Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

John 15:22

If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

John 15:24

If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

Romans 3:10

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

The results of not confessing our sin:

We deceive ourselves - lead our selves astray, doing for ourselves what Satan endeavors to do for us.

The Truth is not in us - we shut out the light and live in an atmosphere of self made darkness.

- Confession of Particular sins (1:9)

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We need to have the same view of our sins as does God does.

Confess means to not only confess, but includes forsaking.

- Confession of Personal sins (1:10)

1 John 1:10

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Close:

Fellowship depends on responding to the standard of light and realizing our sinful state. The victorious Christian life is a life of confessed sins; and genuine confession includes forsaking and thus produces growth.