

1 John - Outline

That which was from the beginning...

- A. [Gen 1:1](#) In the beginning God Created the Heavens and the Earth.
- B. [John 1:1](#) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God

Which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched...

- A. John was there. He was a witness. He is not speaking of things he does not know.
- B. Jesus was heard, seen, smelled, touched by these men who walked and lived with him for years. He opens the letter by refuting Gnosticism.
- C. Jesus came to deliver a message to humanity in the easiest way we could understand, by becoming one of us.

Concerning the Word of life...

- A. John's calling Jesus the Word of life is intensely influential. He uses the word λόγος (Logos).
- B. Jews were rising in the understanding that God interacts with humanity through his word. The Torah is the word of God dictated to Moses. To name him the Word of God, the Word of Life, speaks volumes to the Jewish community.
- C. Starting in the 6th century BC the Greeks began to develop their philosophies. There were three main components:
 - Reason
 - Spirit
 - Desire.

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The Word for Reason is also Logos.

The Life Appeared; we have seen it and testify to it...

- A. Again, attacking Gnosticism using his authority of Witness.

And we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

- A. [John 11:25](#) – Jesus said to her, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”*

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

- A. This beautiful imagery speaks to the very personal relationship you can have with God.
- B. The people you have fellowship with, are a very real part of your life, who share in your joys and your struggles. This same relationship is also possible with God.
- C. John says, we proclaim to you, that we might have fellowship, and in that fellowship, share the Father and Son. Non-believers first glimpse of Christ is often through believers in their lives.

We write this to make our joy complete.

- A. John is echoing a sentiment expressed by Jesus multiple times in the book of John. ([John 15:11](#), [16:24](#), [17:13](#))

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you...

- A. John draws from his authority of Witness. “I walked with him, and this is what he said.”

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- B. People can attempt to draw conclusions, to come up with alternative answers but here is what Jesus had to say about himself.

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

- A. There is no fault with God. If there is a problem with your Fellowship with God, do not look for the problem in him, for he is perfect.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

- A. If a person claims to have a relationship with God, their walk will tell you the truth. ([Matt 7:20](#))
- B. It is possible to be saved, and not have a relationship with God.
- C. Walking in darkness is not occasional sin. It is sin which has enveloped you. It is the habit of living in sin.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all Sin.

- A. Walking in the Light is achievable. We wouldn't be called to if it wasn't.
- B. This is not to say we can be sinless, but through cleansing we can return to the walk in a moment through repentance and being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- C. Walking in the light implies activity. We are called to have fellowship with Christ and the means to that is the word. Dutiful study is our fellowship with the Lord.
- D. "Does my walking in the light take away my sins? Not at all. I am as much a sinner in the light as in the darkness, if it were possible for me to be in the light without being washed in the blood. Well, but we have fellowship with God, and does not having fellowship with God take away sin? Beloved, do not misunderstand me – no man can have fellowship with God unless sin be taken away; but his

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fellowship with God, and his walking in light, does not take away his sin – not at all. The whole process of the removal of sin is here, ‘and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.’”
(Spurgeon)

- E. You can only come to fellowship with God by dealing with your sin problem through the blood of Jesus

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

- A. [Romans 3:23](#) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- B. Stressing that walking in the Light does not make you sinless.
- C. To make such a claim is denies the sacrifice of Christ, to say that he did not need to die for you.

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

- A. [Luke 18:10–14](#)
- B. He is faithful. If we are faithful in our confessions; he is faithful with his cleansing.
- C. There is no limit given, there is no place given to confess, no rites listed. Simply confess and God is faithful.

If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

- A. If we refuse to acknowledge our sin, we show that we are not walking in fellowship with God.

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ἐὰν δὲ ἐν τῷ φωτὶ περιπατῶμεν ὡς αὐτός

If however in the light we should walk as he

ἐστὶν ἐν τῷ φωτὶ κοινωνίαν ἔχομεν μετ' ἀλλήλων καὶ

is in the light fellowship we have with each other and

τὸ αἷμα Ἰησοῦ, τοῦ Υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ, καθαρίζει ἡμᾶς

the blood of Jesus the son of him cleanses us

ἀπὸ πάσης ἁμαρτίας.

from all sin