

Outline

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ 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. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ 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, purifies us from all^(a) sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

***2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God^(a) is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

I. What Is Fellowship with God?

"Walking in the light" (vss. 5-7)

"Knowing Him" (2:3-6)

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly^(a) with your God." Micah 6:8

"No longer will they teach their neighbor,

or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'

because they will all know me." Jeremiah 31:34

A Heart Experience

The Lord says:

*"These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.*

Their worship of me

is based on merely human rules they have been taught" Isaiah 29:13

Objectively Grounded

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life." (1:1)

II. How Do I Know if I Have Fellowship with God?

Six Signs

- You delight in God's presence.
- You have intimate two-way communication with Him.
- You lose some of your freedom!

"We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar...This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did." (2:3-4, 6)

- You spend time getting to know His Family.
- Organic spiritual growth.

To Know the Living God: The God Who Can Be known

I John 1:1 – 2:6

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- You want others to have fellowship with God.

"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. We write this to make our joy complete." (1:3-4)

III. How Can We Get This Fellowship with God?

"and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." (1:7)

*"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."
(2:2)*