

FIRST EPISTLE OF
JOHN
TRUE FELLOWSHIP

The Reality of Fellowship

1 John 1:1-10

Theme of John's epistles

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Fellowship (koinonia)
association, community,
communion, joint participation



Background

1 John 2:26 These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive you (lead you astray)

- Warn against dangers of false teaching (“antichrists”)
- Exhort believers to live lives

Obedience to God
Love for one another

False teaching (heresy)

Gnosticism (material vs spiritual)

Docetism (Jesus’ humanity was not real)

Cerinthus (Jesus was only a man/the “Christ” descended at baptism/left before cross)



Map of the 7 Churches of Asia

Revelation 2 & 3

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Scale: 0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers

1-4 Fellowship with the Son

John 1:1-3,14

1 John 1:1-4 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, concerning the Word of life—² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, **that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.** ⁴ And these things we write to you **that your joy may be full.**

5-7 Walking in Darkness & Light

How can sinners have fellowship with a holy God?

1:5-7 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice 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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8-10 Denying and Confessing Sin

Denying Sin

1:8-10 If **we say that we have no sin**, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ **If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ **If we say that we have not sinned**, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Denying Sin



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