

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship

Aug 30, 2023 | "Introduction to 1 John: The Word of Life" | **1 John 1:1-4**

Three Preliminary Questions:

- 1) Who wrote 1 John?
- 2) When was 1 John written?
- 3) Why study 1 John?

Themes in 1 John:

- 1) _____ of _____
- 2) _____ in the _____
- 3) _____ vs. _____
- 4) Loving _____ in the Body of Christ

Exposition of 1 John 1:1-4:

- 1) The Word of Life came to offer you _____ (1:1-2)
- 2) The Word of Life came to offer you _____ (1:3)
- 3) The Word of Life came to offer you _____ (1:4)

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

1. Who is the author of this book? What other NT books did the author write? What experiences did he have throughout his life? What was his relationship with Jesus like? How does this impact the writing of this book? For an overview of 1-3 John, see the following video: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-3-john/>
2. Why does the author make such a big deal about seeing, hearing, and touching Christ? Why is that significant for the readers of this book? What temptations do you think his readers were dealing with? What temptations are we as twenty-first century Christians dealing with?
3. What is the "word of life" that John mentions in vs. 1? How does this coincide with John's Gospel in John 1:1-14? Does John believe in Christ's deity? How do you know? Does John believe in Christ's humanity? Is it essential for us to believe in Christ's deity and humanity? Why or why not?
4. What is the "eternal life" that John proclaims to his reader in vs. 2? How does one obtain this eternal life? Is there another way to obtain this eternal life other than through the Word of Life?
5. How would you define the word "fellowship" (Greek: *koinonia*)? What does fellowship with the Father look like? What does fellowship with Christ look like? What does fellowship with other believers look like?
6. How do we know that Christ came to offer us fellowship? How do we know that Christ came to offer us joy? Is joy the inevitable product of Christian faith? Is there increasing joy in your life as a Christian? Why or why not?

For Advanced Study: In one sitting read through the book of 1 John in its entirety. How long did it take you to read the entire book? Which passages struck you as you read the book? Which passages puzzled you as you read them? What questions do you have about this book that you want God to answer in this series? What truths do you want explained further?