

1 John 1:1-10

Week 1 - Fellowship & Confession

Introducing 1 John

Pray for your time together as a group.

Read Out Loud: 1 John 1 (NIV)

¹ 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 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.

Background Information

There is controversy over whether the author was John, the apostle and one of the twelve disciples, or if he was John, a disciple of the apostle John. 1 John is written in the later half of the first century to a church in Asia Minor. It addressed the specific problem in this church community where people were believing in false teaching, namely that Jesus wasn't the Messiah, He wasn't the Son of God, and He didn't come in the flesh (vs. 2:22; 4:2; 5:1-5).

Information taken from: The Epistles of John by I. Howard Marshall; Michigan: The New International Commentary on the New Testament, 1978.

? Optional: What about this passage stood out to you?

? Optional: How does the author, John, establish his credibility, and why might that be important?

True Life

? Why does John refer to Jesus as the Word of life in verses 1 and 2? How is this linked to John calling Jesus “life appeared” in verse 2?

? What if-then statements can we pull out of vv. 6-10?

| | IF... | THEN... |
|----------|-------|---------|
| Verse 6 | | |
| Verse 7 | | |
| Verse 8 | | |
| Verse 9 | | |
| Verse 10 | | |

? How do these if-then statements cause us to examine ourselves? How have you seen this cause and effect chain play out in your walk with God?

? How is John making his joy complete? How can we make our joy complete?

True Fellowship

? Where have you heard the term “fellowship” before? What does the term “fellowship” actually mean?

? What is the connection between the mention of ‘fellowship’ in vs. 3 and vv. 6-7?

? We often hear fellowship in references to relationship with other believers, but what does fellowship with Christ look like practically?

? In vv. 5-7, John mentions that God is light and that we need to be in the light. What does it mean to walk in the light?

? What do vv. 8-10 tell us about walking in the light?

? What connection is there between confessing our sins and having fellowship with one another?

? Why do you think it can be difficult for Christians to authentically live in fellowship with each other?

? How can we, as a small group, create an environment that fosters authentic fellowship?

For Discussion and Accountability

? What is one area of your life where you struggle with “walking in the light”?

? What hinders you from authentic fellowship and/or confession?