

That You May Know

In the Beginning — 1 John 1:1-4
January 13, 2019

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.

- 1 John 1:1

I. SOLID AND SENSORY

- The world had a beginning—the Word did not (Gen. 1; John 1:1; Col. 1:15-16).
- The eternal Word was heard, but not just heard, he was seen, but not just seen, he was touched (Isa. 9:1-2; Matt. 13:16-17, 28:9; John 20:26-28).
- John proclaims “the word of life.” It is the message of the eternal gospel. It is the message of the eternal Christ. It is the historical manifestation of the invisible and eternal (John 1:4,14; 1 John 5:20).
- The eternal Word has always been with the Father, once made manifest to humanity, and will be again (vs. 2; 1 John 3:2).

II. APOSTOLICITY

- John and the apostles both saw and proclaimed Jesus. They were eyewitnesses (vss. 2, 3; Acts 1:21-22; 4:33).
- The church of Jesus Christ is an “apostolic” church (Mark 3:13-19; 1 Cor. 2:13; 11:23; 15:3; *Creed of Nicaea*).

III. FELLOWSHIP & JOY

- There is a purpose to the testimony and proclamation of the word of life—namely fellowship and joy (vss. 3-4).
- True followers of Christ enjoy fellowship across the time spectrum. We have a current fellowship that reaches both forward and backward (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:42).
- We have fellowship with the Father and with his Son [through the Spirit] (vs. 3).
- Life in Christ always has, and always will, lead to fullness of joy (vs. 4; Neh. 8:10; Acts 8:8, 13:52; 2 Cor. 8:2; Jude 1:24).

KNOW: The eternal word of life is the substance of the apostolic proclamation, which leads to fellowship with one another (based on fellowship with the Father and the Son) and issues in fullness of joy.

DO: Receive the testimony and proclamation of the word of life.

Suggested Reading:

The Church: One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic by R.D. Phillips, Mark Dever and Phil Ryken (LifePoint Library #262 PHI)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. John says “that which was from the beginning.” What is “that”?
2. Why does John stress the physicality of Jesus and his (and his fellow apostles’) eyewitness testimony of this reality?
3. Is it important for us to know that Jesus was with the Father before he was made known to us in the world?
4. Why does knowing all that John was testifying to and proclaiming led to fellowship between believers? What if a “believer” does not believe John’s testimony and proclamation?
5. Do you believe that faith in Christ should lead to joy?
6. What is one practical thing that you learned (or were reminded of) from this message that you can apply to your life now?