

On Communion With God (1 John 1:1-4)

Introduction: *Our Need To Know God*

“With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit. The words, “Be still, and know that I am God,” mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshiper in this middle period of the twentieth century” (A. W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*, vii).

Overview of the Book

1. The Author: *John, “the beloved,” who knows the greatest fellowship with Jesus (v. 1-3a)*

“Truly our fellowship *is* “—not *was*—”*is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

“He was a living and abiding voice for God” (Papias on John, c. 140 AD)

2. The Message: *Life and Fellowship with God who is Light and Love (v. 3b)*

God is light, and God is love (1:5, 4:8, 4:16). And walking in the light is walking in love, for example, 2:10, “He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.” This is who God is, and this is what it means to walk with God (1John 3:16-17).

(Fellowship with God / fullness of joy / eternal life) => (Walking with Him in the light / love)

3. The Occasion: *False teaching about God and Christ had terrible results.*

Some in the church have been teaching serious error, both theological and ethical, which had split the church (2:19). John says, they don’t walk in the light or in love (see 1:5-10). 3:7, “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous” (see 2:26). 4:7, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

“It is impossible to keep our moral practices sound and our inward attitudes right while our idea of God is erroneous or inadequate” (Tozer).

4. The Result: *Communion with the Father, and with His Son (b. 3b-4)*

It is God giving himself to us, and us giving of ourselves to him, through our union in Jesus Christ, in whom God and man meet. “It is out of the measureless fullness of [His] grace and truth, of wisdom and power, of goodness and love, or righteousness and faithfulness which resides in him that God’s people draw for all their needs in this life and for the hope of the life to come” (Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*).

Conclusion

“Let his money perish with him who esteems all the gold in the world worth one day’s communion with Jesus Christ” (Marquis of Vico).