

**Message #18****I John 4:13-16**

The entire book of I John is to communicate to believers that they can know they have fellowship with God and are right with Him.

**GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THEY KNOW HIM AND KNOW THAT THEY HAVE CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.**

**TANGIBLE REALITY #1** – The reality of the Holy Spirit. **4:13**

The words “by this” are best taken to refer to what John is going to say. The verb “has given” is perfect tense and what this means is that the Holy Spirit was given to us the moment we believed and continues to be in us at the present and into the future.

It is interesting that the word “know” is knowledge by experience. God wants us to experientially know that we are right with Him and in fellowship with Him.

**TANGIBLE REALITY #2** – The reality of apostolic witness. **4:14**

The pronoun “we” is emphatic in the Greek text and refers to the eyewitness apostles. I want to point out something very significant from these verses—the Trinity is intimately connected to our having fellowship with God. In **verse 13** the emphasis is on God the Spirit. In **verse 14** the emphasis is on God the Father and God the Son.

The point of this verse is that the apostles literally saw Jesus Christ and they continue to witness that Jesus Christ is the only Savior authorized by God the Father, who can bring sinners into a relationship with the Holy God.

**TANGIBLE REALITY #3** – The reality of Christological confession. **4:15**

What one says or confesses about Jesus Christ determines where one is at in one’s relationship with God.

I John is a book that demands one come to terms with Jesus Christ. Why? Because this is the key to fellowship with God. The Holy Spirit who is given to every believer will cause that believer to admit and testify of truth about Jesus Christ.

1) The true believer will admit that Jesus is the Christ. **I John 2:22**

What this means is that the true believer will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only one authorized as the anointed God/man who will someday reign as King.

2) The true believer will admit that Jesus came in the flesh. **4:2**

What this means is that the true believer will acknowledge that God did become man in the Person of Jesus Christ. In Christ, all fullness of the Godhead lived in bodily form. Any person who is in real fellowship with God will acknowledge this.

3) The true believer will admit that Jesus is the Son of God. **4:15**

I believe in this context this is a reference to Trinitarism. In other words, one who is in true fellowship with God will admit that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity, the Son of the Living God.

**TANGIBLE REALITY #4** – The reality of God’s love. **4:16**

The love of God is not something that is our natural bent. We cannot, in and of ourselves, produce it. The love of God is a love that is wrought by the Holy Spirit. The love of God is not silly, it is not sentimental, it is not sloppy, it is not sexual, and it is not social. The love of God is a supernatural love that is produced by the Holy Spirit who lives within us. This love of God means one will love God, God’s Word, God’s Church, God’s work and God’s people. It is not the natural bent of our heart to love at this level. But this is the love that God will produce within us.

God sees our faith but men and women experience our love.

**FELLOWSHIP QUESTIONS:**

1. Do you have evidence of the fact that the Holy Spirit is working in you?
2. Do you truly believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to get into a right relationship with the Holy God?
3. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God, the second member of the Trinity who came in human form to this world?
4. Are you developing more of a love for God’s Word, God’s work, God’s Church and God’s people?

If your answer to these questions is “yes,” you are developing in your fellowship with God.