

# So That You May Know

## An Expositional Study of the Epistle of 1John

### Chapter 2- John's Declaration **1John 1:1-4**

### 16. The Person of Jesus Christ Part 12

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WAOY Friday/Monday 04/27-30/07; WOSM Thursday 10/16/08; WOSM Monday 10/24/22

Welcome again, my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of 1John and today we are going to begin to at “The Declaration of the Apostle John” as listed in **1John 1:1-4**- so let's read those verses together.

**1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —**

**2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —**

**3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

**4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.**

Now we have been going over the apostolic declaration of John over the last several broadcasts and today I want to look closely today at verse 3:

**what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

Now John is telling us here that he is not making up anything that he declares in this Epistle- but only that which he has both seen and heard. And then John gives us a very important concept that we are to follow today. He tells us here that one of the reasons that he wrote this inspired Epistle is to serve as a guide for us that we may gage ourselves by.

And John is also telling us here in verse 3 that if we are to have any fellowship at all with God the Father or Jesus Christ the Son- we must be in fellowship with him and the other Apostles. In other words- there is no such thing as anyone being in right standing with God or being in right standing with Jesus and not believing and teaching and obeying and accepting the things that John wrote in this Epistle.

Let me put this another way. You are deceived if you think that you are okay with God and yet live or believe contrary to that which John wrote in this Epistle.

Now in our modern culture- we have a tendency to think that our own unique American ideals are supposed to be carried over into the Church- and that is just simply not true.

In America- we live and operate in a democratic republic- where majority rules. But the Church is not a place of democracy. Majority does *not* rule in the House of God. Never has and never will. The Church- unlike America- is a *theocracy*- where King Jesus alone is sitting on the Throne and calling all of the shots and everyone else- the Pastors and Elders and Deacons with all the rest of the people included- are bond slaves- who have all been chosen by God; called by God; saved by Grace for the express purpose of performing God's Will in the earth and who are all humbly submitted to the Authority of God's Word.

No one- not Blair Bradley not Billy Graham not Pope Francis; not Rick Warren; not anyone has the right or the authority or the power to create their own truth or to disregard Scripture or to change the Bible or to add anything to the Bible.

All who are truly part of the genuine Church of Jesus Christ are servants who are to walk in loving obedience to that which God has already said. We have to know, beloved, that divinely inspired and inerrant Scripture is not overruled by a majority of the members of the Church. They don't have that power.

Let me give you a practical example of what I am talking about. If you have a church of say, 200 members and 199 of them including all of the Deacons; Elders and Pastors desire to teach and believe that homosexual marriage is nothing more serious than being left handed and only one person- say a ninety year old widow woman- says that Scripture forbids that stance- then all 199 of the people who promote that sin including all of the leaders of that Church are all wrong and that precious, faithful little old lady is right.

Why is this? Because that widow woman in our example is in agreement or in right fellowship with that which John and Paul and Peter and James and Moses taught in Scripture and therefore, according to what John teaches us here in verse 3, by her being in right relationship with that which John and the others have written- she is automatically in right relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son.

And that also means that in our example, and all 199 of the others, including all of the leaders of this Church are at odds with Scripture and therefore are *not* in fellowship with either God or Jesus.

You see, John says here in verse 3 that what we believe and what we teach is much more serious than just who is right and who is wrong. This is not a game of “gotcha”, where we try to see who can win the argument.

No, by supporting that which Scripture clearly condemns- those in this example have not just proved that they are either ignorant of what the Bible says or that they don’t care what the Bible says- no, John says here in verse 3 that by consciously believing and teaching contrary to that which is revealed in Scripture- that by the act of believing and teaching contrary to Scripture- these people have broken fellowship with both God the Father and with Jesus Christ the Son.

That means that the particular Church in our example would be at odds with the Head of the Church and that this particular “church” is no longer representative of a true Church which belongs to Jesus Christ and is therefore guilty of false advertising- they are not a Church.

Now there is only one correct solution to this problem of being out of fellowship with both God and Jesus over teaching and preaching contrary to Scripture- repentance. This Church can call a meeting and they can go through all the gyrations and handwringing that they want to. But until and unless they repent and begin to teach that which Scripture reveals – they are apostate. They are not Christian; they are not a Church.

Now the leaders of this religious organization can bring out information that says that a majority of the American people support homosexual unions. And they can talk about how loving it is to accept perverted people as they are. And they can say that they are actually being “broad minded” as opposed to being “narrow minded” and that it is actually not sin but a wonderful example of tolerance and love. They

can wear elaborate robes at this meeting and they can perform powerful music and bring in guest speakers from the political and the entertainment field; they can receive letters of commendation from world leaders for their great courage and they can stand on one leg and scream like a chicken- but unless and until this organization repents and returns to being in agreement with that which John and Peter and Paul and all of the other writers of Scripture taught- that organization is not Christian; it is not a Church; it is not in fellowship with either God the Father or Jesus Christ the Son and is in fact an apostate religious organization that has ceased to function as a true Church and is now operating in hostility toward Christ and His Church. That is exactly what John is saying here in the third verse.

Now some would say, *“But that’s not fair, Brother Blair”*. But we must remember, beloved, that God is not concerned in any way shape or form about our human concept of fairness. God is right; God is *always* right; God is never wrong; and therefore everything that God says is true and right and good and helpful to us. Besides, you really don’t want God to be fair with you anyway. If God were fair- then no one would be saved at all- because no one deserves Salvation- no one. We are all saved by Grace through Faith- by the Mercy of a loving God. No one has earned Salvation and no one deserves Salvation and God is not obligated to forgive a single sin or save a single soul. He does so only through the free exercise of His Grace and Mercy.

But have you noticed that we all like Mercy and Grace and that we are all recipients of God’s Mercy and Grace? And yet we have to admit, brothers and sisters, that neither Grace nor Mercy are concepts of fairness.

No one deserves God’s Grace nor His mercy- but God gives out those attributes based upon His Own good pleasure- and not based upon anything that we have done. Every single human being on earth, including you and me and even John deserved to go to hell a long time ago- because every human being on earth is, in God’s Eyes, a wicked sinner. So fairness would dictate that everyone who is a sinner would be sent to hell, right?

But even though we are sinners and even though we deserved to go to hell and even though it would have been perfectly fair to send us all to hell- because we are all guilty- God didn’t send us all to hell- did He? No, God has not rewarded our sins with that which we deserved

did He? So, God wasn't fair with us, was He? No, God gave us Mercy and God gave us Grace even though that wasn't fair- didn't He?

So if you understand that God is the Creator and Owner of everything and if you grasp the concept that Owner has the right to do whatever He wants with that which He owns; and if you understand that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that the Church doesn't belong to the people or the leaders- but that it belongs to Him. If you understand that- then doesn't it makes sense that it is Jesus and Jesus alone who has the Authority to say what goes on and what is supposed to be taught and what is correct to believe in that which belongs to Him?

So this is not an issue of fairness at all- it is an issue of ownership and somehow we have come to the foolish notion that the Church belongs to us and that we somehow have received the right or the power to teach or to believe whatever we want and some think that they have the authority to live anyway they see fit and that God is still obligated to let them into His Heaven. Where in the world did we come up with that?

Beloved, we can be a social club or a community organization or we can be a branch of the United Nations or a franchise of Aunt Gertrude's Thursday afternoon bridge club and we can teach and believe and preach anything that we want to. We can be member in good standing and be in right fellowship with all the other members of these organizations and still live anyway that we see fit.

But when we put the word, "Church" over our door- when we link our name with Jesus by saying that we are Christians; when we are a part of that which God established and with that which Jesus died to save and that which is owned outright by the Lord Christ Himself- then all of our individuality; all of our entrepreneurial skills; all of our personal opinions; all of our human logic; all of our democratic ideals are thrown out the door and we are bound to graciously and lovingly and joyfully humble ourselves to the Authority of Holy Scripture and we have a responsibility to teach the very same things that John and Peter and Paul and all the rest taught and we have the obligation to live in solemn obedience to that which God has said and we have the duty to behave ourselves in the way that God says is right or else we cannot and we must not call ourselves a Church or a Christian because that would be false advertising.

The Christian Church has what Jude called a “common Salvation” that is that the one single Church which was created by the one single Lord has a single Salvation that is the same for everyone and that one single Church receives guidance and teaching and instructions about what is right and wrong and about how to live our lives here on this earth from one single Book and that makes all of the worldwide Church to either be in right standing with God and with Jesus Christ or it proves that it is backslidden and has become a spiritual harlot.

And this is what John meant when he wrote in verse 3:

**what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our “journey” through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.