

Fellowship With God Part 1

The Basic Characteristics of Christianity Study in 1 John

Read 1 John 1:1-10

The first basic characteristic of Christianity that John mentions is Fellowship with God. This is the foundation to everything else in the Christian's life. This is the source of all other blessings and actions associated with Christianity. So what is Fellowship with God and what does it involve?

1. The Meaning of Fellowship - 1 John 1:1-4

The Greek word used in 1 John 1:4 translated "Fellowship" is the word "koinonia." It simply means a partnership, common interests, values, and direction. People who have "Fellowship" have a common interest, common goals and values. They are teammates, so to speak. They are partners. This is what we can have with God according to John in 1 John 1:1-4. This "partnership" with God is the foundation for everything else we enjoy and do as a Christian. It is because of this partnership that we want to follow Jesus, obey Jesus and want others to know and trust Jesus. Notice a few things about this relationship:

- A. Personal - It is a relationship between two real people. 1 John 1:1-2
 - a. Communication- talking to each other
 - b. Communion - spending time together
 - c. Consideration - thinking about each other (You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." - Isaiah 26:3)
- B. Privilege - 1 John 1:3 - We have the same opportunity to walk with God that the apostles did. This relationship with God is not just for the super spiritual. It is for anyone that wants it.
- C. Productive - 1 John 1:4 - It produces Joy. Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

2. The Main Partner - 1 John 1:1-4

As a believer we have been given the privilege of having fellowship with God. It is not our right nor are we the lead partner. We have been granted this privilege because of what Jesus did for us at the cross. We, in no way, deserve this partnership. However, it is ours if we want it. Notice several things about our main partner, Jesus ...

- A. He is God - (1 John 1:1) John describes this partner as "That which was from the beginning ..." (***John 1:1-2***) "***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.***" Our partner is the God of all creation. He is Lord of all things. He is the only one who has existed from the beginning.
- B. He is real - (1 John 1:1-2) John goes on to say that this partner was a real human being that he was able to hear, look at and touch.
- C. He is Jesus, God in the flesh - (1 John 1:1b-2) John calls the person he heard, saw and touched "The Word of Life." He said that the Word of Life was with the Father and then was made manifest to us. John also describes this same person in the Gospel of John 1:1-3, 14. In these verses Jesus is called "The Word" just like he is here in 1 John. So when John speaks of the Word of Life, he is talking about Jesus. Jesus left Heaven and became a man to be a sacrifice for our sins and an example

- for us to know how to live(Philippians 2:5-8). Jesus said no man has seen God but if you have seen Jesus you have seen the Father. (John 14:9)
- D. He wants to partner with each of us - (1 John 1:2-3) John writes to us that he not only heard, saw and touched Jesus, but he was sent to be a witness to us that Jesus exists and wants to fellowship with us just like He did with John. God wants to speak to you and hear from you & he has made a way in the person of Jesus Christ.
 - E. Joy results from this partnership - (1 John 1:4) John writes these things to us so we can know the same joy that he and all the other apostles knew. An inner peace and joy that only comes from knowing Jesus personally.
 - a. Prayer - John 16:24 - “Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”
 - b. Obedience - John 15:10-11 - “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
 - c. Jesus prays for us - John 17:13 - “But now I am coming to you, and these things speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”