



Fellowship with God and Others

Lesson 2 (1 John 1:1-2:6)

In the opening verses of 1 John, John lays out for us the message of his letter, which is designed to be a summary of the teaching of Jesus.

The Purpose for 1 John: How to Have Fellowship and Joy (1:1-4)

John emphasizes that he is not recounting secondhand information, but his own personal experience with Jesus. He states his credentials and then his message and purpose for writing.

A. The _____ of this letter (1:1, 3a).

This study will assume that John the disciple of Jesus wrote 1-3 John, Revelation, and the gospel of John.

B. The _____ of this letter (1:2).

John sees himself as proclaiming again the message of love, truth, and obedience that he first heard from Jesus.

C. The _____ of the letter (1:3b-4).

John writes a purpose statement here with two goals in mind.

1. John wanted his readers to have _____ with Christians and God.

Jerry Bridges said, "It is because we share together a common life in Christ that we are called on to share with one another whatever we have, both spiritual and material resources."¹

2. John wanted his readers to have _____.

As John will develop throughout the letter, true joy is found in keeping God's commands and having fellowship with him.



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¹ True Community, 16

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The Problem in 1 John – How to Handle Sin (1:5-2:2)

Sin will destroy our relationship with God and sin will destroy our relationship with each other.

- A. **We must not _____ in sin (1 John 1:5-7).**
God is light and there is no darkness in him. There are no mistakes with God. No errors, no faults. For this reason, God expects us to walk in the light rather than in the darkness.
- B. **We must admit and _____ our sin (1 John 1:8-10).**
John warns that we need to be honest about our ongoing problem with sin and always come to God for cleansing and forgiveness.
- C. **We must trust Jesus to _____ our sin (1 John 2:1-2).**
Through Christ there is forgiveness and cleansing for all our sins, and not just for us, but for the entire world.

If we want fellowship with God and others, we must turn from a lifestyle of sin and address any sin that remains despite our efforts.

The Practice of 1 John – How to Keep God’s Commands (2:3-6)

Rather than walking in darkness, we should be keeping God’s commands.

- A. **Keeping God’s command demonstrates that we _____ God (2:3-4).**
A true knowledge of God will result in living in a way that God would live.
- B. **Keeping God’s commands means God’s love has been _____ (2:5).**
As we allow God’s love to mature us, the end result is that we keep God’s commands.

John reminds us even in these opening verses that our obedience goes deeper than “just do it.” Our obedience or lack thereof is a sign of our love and knowledge of God, or a lack of love and knowledge of God.

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