

1 John 1:1-4

Over the entry to the sanctuary, in the foyer, you'll note that we have the key phrase from 1 John 1:3. "...and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." Have you stopped and pondered, to carefully consider those words and what they really mean? We've begun to answer the question two Sundays ago. But we've only just begin. So...

Let's dig right in to 1 John 1:3 and ask the question, "What is this 'fellowship', the *koinonia*' the apostle John states as the goal of him writing this letter?" Some observations.

- The “**we**” and “**us**” here is the apostles and associates - the apostolic circle (they have seen and heard from Christ and the Spirit).
- The **recipients** of the letter are **believers** (the apostles did not write epistles to unbelievers).
- So the **purpose** of writing sought here by John and the apostles, to the recipients of the letter is *not so that they'll be converted/saved (they already are)*. It is so that, being saved they will walk more and more in the light of Christ via apostolic truth so that they can have a deeper more sincere and joyful fellowship with the apostles.
- This is a **process** of *expected, rapid spiritual growth* with a **goal in sight**.
- The **goal** here is to join the apostles in their mature, God-centered, God-dominant, partnership in full doctrine, truth and applied obedience/practice, enlivened and energized by the power and grace of Christ through the Spirit.
- Because the apostles weren't physically with the Father and the Son, and the recipients of John's letter were not physically with the apostles, nor were the apostles all together (many had already gone home to the Lord by this point), the essence of Biblical fellowship is not primarily the idea of being together physically (that follows, in the local church). It is the deep sharing in a common spiritual source of life, and of apostolic, Spirit-wrought values and truths, and of joint mission and purpose. It is to truly and deeply know the Father, and the Son and the Spirit as they are, and to share together in their spiritual life, and together to obediently do what the truth about them and their commands require.
- The result is that the apostles leap for joy (wherever they are!) v4.

Question: Per the blessed apostle John from Jesus Himself, what is one main purpose of your life here on earth as a Christian? The answer is in v4.

How does that factor into your plans, your views? See Rev 22:14



The 1 John 1:3 Principle

True fellowship in the church



In the NT, koinonia – fellowship, is never used in the secular sense. *It always has a deeply spiritual and objective moral significance and grounding.* The idea of earthly or natural fellowship founded on common interests, human nature and joys, physical ties like family, even friendship between two or more people that happen to be Christians, that is a concept foreign to the apostles.

Here are the major references by name to *fellowship* in the NT so you can see this fact

Acts 2:42;

1 Cor. 1:9;

2 Cor. 6:14;

2 Cor 13:14;

Gal. 2:9;

Phil. 2:1;

Phil 3:10;

Philem. 1:6;

1 John 1:3, 6–7

The breaking of the first fellowship

Genesis 3:6-7 (the most intimate fellowship between Adam and Eve was broken by sin)

v8, the intimate fellowship with God was broken by sin -a theophany or Christophany

v22-24a, Fellowship with the perfection of the garden was broken by sin

v24b, Fellowship with the **Tree of Life** was broken, but it was an act of mercy.

Revelation 22:1-4, Restoration of fellowship with the Tree of Life!