

**- Order of Service -**

**Call to Worship**

**Welcoming Prayer**

- *Holy Spirit, living breath of God*
- *458, Sweet hour of prayer*
- *426, Nearer my God to thee*
- *A Christian home (tune of: Be still my Soul)*

**Announcements and Prayer requests**

**Greeting**

**Message in the Word -**

**John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #1**

**Welcome and Introduction**

**1 John 1:1-10**

**Sending prayer**

**You may notice we don't pass an offering plate**

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

**- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -**

**Grace Bible Fellowship**

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**(707) 485-7713 [www.GraceBibleRedwoodValley.org](http://www.GraceBibleRedwoodValley.org)**



**GRACE**  
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*“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”*



**- Teaching -**

**Eric Peterman**

**John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #1**

**Welcome and Introduction**

**1 John 1:1-10**

**- July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 -**

## John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #1

### Welcome and Introduction

#### 1 John 1:1-10

A Christian's assurance is, in essence their faith, their convinced confidence, that they are in right standing with God now, are beloved in The Beloved, and will continue secure until they reach glorification forever. It is a confidence in Jesus, that he is God's Son, the long-promised Savior and Messiah, whose death bore God's anger against sin and propitiated it ([1 John 2:2](#)).

John wrote his first epistle to believers with two great, connected and layered purposes: **To deepen their sense and appreciation of security in God and His love for them, through Christ.** And with their feet then firmly planted in that rock of assurance, to call them into **an ever deepening and intimate fellowship with their God... to really know their God by the experience** of walking with Him daily, as the apostle do.

Now I said that one of John's purposes in writing was to deepen the reader's sense and appreciation, to be solidly assured of and settled in the certainty of one's salvation and future glorification. One of the many assurance passages here is **1 John 5:13**. And there are many others here.

#### **But there are some passages here that seem quite anti-assurance!**

That if these are viewed as passages on one's standing, if they are a test with one's eternal salvation is in mind, they are daunting and scary! They can keep one awake at night! Here's a sample.

- *No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. (1 John 3:6)*
- *The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. (1 John 3:8)*
- *This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. (1 John 3:10)*
- *We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. (1 John 2:3)*

**Yikes! Right?** - Can any of us claim to have escaped these things entirely or even consistently? We know ourselves, and we know God knows what's really going on with us. In fact **1 John 1:8** is pretty clear we believers have sin! We're seemingly caught between a rock and a hard place here. Well, as we proceed through John's snappy little epistle, **I hope to lay out for you an approach that will cheer your confidence in your salvation, and turn these scary passages into helpful friends & comforts.**

1 John 1:1-2, John takes his readers back to ground zero of what the disciples as eyewitnesses experienced and saw. In other words, *John begins by differentiating the disciples-become-apostles' experience and their divinely commissioned message from some other group or contrary influence that his exerted itself on his readers.* (See 2:18, 22, 4:3, 2 John 7) John numbers himself among the personal eyewitnesses so his readers can have assurance that John is the real-deal and that the gospel of the incarnate Son of God, the promised Messiah who surely and securely saves is rock solid reliable, *The Beginning* here is not the beginning of creation (as in John 1), but the beginning of their personal witness of the incarnate Messiah savior, Jesus, as his disciples and even going back to John the Baptist.

V2, "the eternal life" - See Jesus' claim in **John 14:6**

v3, is vital to understand in that he is not proclaiming to his readers, who are already believers, saved (he calls them his "little children") the gospel so that they can be saved/justified by faith. No, they already are! He reiterates the incarnation of God among men so he can point them to something beyond salvation/justification: Something the apostles and associates enjoy in high degree, and that is *fellowship with the Father and the Son.*

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*In fact it would be correct to say that 1 John is John's manual on how believers, the saved, can have fellowship with the triune God in ever deepening, enriching ways and in increasing joy.*

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In 1 John there are 3 key words: **fellowship** – *koinonia*, to share in values, common purpose, duties, accomplishments, and joys.

**Know** – *oida*, to know and be convinced in the mind that something is so. To know a fact or facts.

**Know** – *ginosko*, to combine *oida* (facts/truth) with experience so as to know the truth in one's existential experience.

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