



## What Is Fellowship?

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**1 John 1:1-4**

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**REVIEW** — Let's remember what we have learned ...

The Speaker — Is it John? (Cf. John 1:1-2 ... Along with at least 40 similar words and phrases)

The Subject — Why is 1 John written?

It is written to produce **JOY** 1:4

It is written to produce **HOLINESS**. 2:1

It is written to produce **ASSURANCE**. 5:13

The Style — How is 1 John written?

To apply a **DOCTRINAL** test — “*if we **say** ...*” (what we believe)

To apply an **OBEDIENCE** test — “*if we **walk** in the light ...*” (how we live)

To apply a **RELATIONAL** test — “*If we **love one another** ...*” (how we relate to one another)

**Note:** Why these tests?

## LESSON — What Is Fellowship? 1:1-4

### I. THE MESSAGE OF 1 JOHN IS WRITTEN ABOUT A **PERSON** vs. 1-2

*“What **was** from the beginning ...”*

Jesus, before time began, has always been **GOD** (divine). v. 1a

*“... what we have **heard**, ... **seen** ... **looked at** ... **touched** ... the Word of life — and the life was **manifested** ... which was with the Father and was **manifested** to us —”*

Jesus, in time, became a **MAN** (human). vs. 1b-2

### II. THE MESSAGE OF 1 JOHN IS WRITTEN WITH A **PURPOSE** vs. 3-4

*So that you too may have **fellowship with us**; ... our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.” v. 3*

The Picture — What is fellowship?

The term — koinonia (Gk.) ... In 1 John “fellowship” is *not* seen as something in **ADDITION** to salvation *but* is itself **SYNONYMOUS** with salvation.

The target — The goal of the proclamation of the gospel was to create a **FELLOWSHIP** with the Father, the Son, and every believer in history.

The Passages

Acts 2:42 “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, through whom you were called into **fellowship** with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

1 Corinthians 10:16 “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a **participation** (Koinonia) in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a **participation** in the body of Christ?”

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

The Product — What does fellowship produce?

The Practice — How do I experience this joy?