

Love Illuminated—1 John 1:1-4—Jesus Christ: The Word of Life

- **Intro:**
 - See the blog for some background information—author, date, etc.
 - The Spring—Jesus Christ, who has eternally existed with the Father
 - The Ocean—joy-filled fellowship with God and with one another.
- **Jesus Christ is ETERNAL life (v.1)**
 - v.1—that which was FROM THE BEGINNING, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.
 - John 1:1—In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
 - Jesus is the Spring. He is the beginning. He is not an object of creation but the source of it!
 - **FOUNDATIONAL IDEA:** Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has eternally existed with the Father.
 - Everything else flows from here!
- **Jesus Christ is OUR life (v.2)**
 - v.2—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the father and was made manifest to us.
 - Jesus is called, short and simple, THE LIFE!
 - 1 John 5:11-12—God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life.
 - Colossians 3:4—When Christ who IS your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
 - **Dichotomy:**
 - John loves to play in dichotomies—light v. dark; life v. death.
 - In Jesus Christ, John draws a hard and fast line between where LIFE is and where it isn't.
- **Jesus Christ became FLESH (v.2)**
 - The Son, who is without beginning and has been with the Father forever, CAME DOWN in flesh and bones and blood!
 - **Implications of Incarnation:**
 - People from the days when John wrote this have struggled with Incarnation—the eternally existing God becoming a man presents challenges. People have always and will always much prefer to worship a god who is relegated to a mystical, spiritual idea.
 - When God becomes a particular man, born to a particular woman, in a particular place, who made particular commands and died on a particular cross to save people from particular sin...things get much more personal!
 - **Hangups:**
 - Can God really be both divine and human?
 - If Incarnation really happened, then every person everywhere for all of time MUST obey this one seemingly obscure man from Nazareth.
 - If Incarnation is true, Jesus is GOD and all that he says is law.
 - If Incarnation is true, Jesus destroys all our pretenses of being or pretending to be God.
 - If Incarnation is true, we can no longer pretend to be more than we are because Jesus has said we are all sick and dead in sin and in desperate need of grace!
- **Jesus Christ is our means of FELLOWSHIP (v.3)**

- v.3—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- Fellowship with God:
 - We do not and did not have the RIGHT to fellowship with God—we were GIVEN fellowship through the grace of God in Christ.
 - Koinonia = a relationship in which there are shared values and affections.
 - Matthew 11:19—Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!”
 - Thank God that, in his grace, he sent his Son (his very self) to be FLESH and to be the FRIEND of sinners.
 - He has come offering a free gift of fellowship to all who would lay down their values and affections and take on His values and affections!
- Fellowship with One another:
 - Christ is the common point, the rally flag, around which we form and enjoy fellowship!
 - Crucial—What John is saying is that DOCTRINE, not experience, is the basis of our fellowship!
 - Step One—come to know and enjoy real relationship with God.
 - Step Two—we seek further joy in walking in deep, real fellowship with each other.
 - Christian Community is not a rival to our joy and affections for God but rather a means of increasing it. Otherwise, to seek after this type of joy would be idolatry!
- Ultimate End: See Disciple-Making as the Completion of Joy (v.4)
 - v.4—And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete
 - The COMPLETION of our joy comes in the EXPANSION of that joy into the lives of people all around us.
 - Ultimate Joy = fellowship with God, fellowship with the community of saints while watching that joy consume people across the globe THROUGH the proclamation of the gospel.
 - v.3—that which we have seen and heard we PROCLAIM also to you.
- Conclusion:
 - The gospel is the announcement of the coming of God in the person of Christ to graciously take on all our humanity and sin and exchange it for his perfect righteousness.
 - The offer of the gospel is not to come to a set of new burdens or rules but to come to Jesus, the spring of life and joy!
 - John 7:38—Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
 - Revelation 21:6—And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of water of life without payment.”