

This. Is. Love.
1 John 1:1-7
September 16, 2014

I. Review

A. Who & When

1. Written by the _____
2. Late in the _____

B. Why

1. False teachers within the church were preaching _____
2. Written for two reasons
 - a. To urge members to not be led _____
 - b. To reassure the members of their own _____

II. The Prologue – Vv. 1-4

A. Echoes of John 1

1. The _____
2. _____ and _____
3. The concept of the _____ or *logos* is central to both passages

B. Complementary Passages

1. 1 John is going to expand on two _____ of the Gospel of John
 - a. The reality of the _____
 - b. The fabric of Christian _____

C. Why These Themes?

1. Part of the heresy was _____
 - a. Centered on who Jesus _____ and what he has _____
 - b. The “secessionists” were teaching that Jesus could not have been fully _____ and fully _____
2. The community of these churches was _____

D. A Look at the Greek

1. The emphasis is on the _____
2. Jesus...
 - a. Was from the _____
 - b. They (John & others) have _____ him, _____ him, _____ him
 - c. He is the Word of _____ who _____ on Earth
 - d. He is _____ and eternal _____ is found only in him

- e. He was with God the Father in _____, but has now been revealed to _____
- 3. This is the basis of John's _____ to write and teach
- 4. The point is not the _____ of proclaiming
 - a. It is _____ is being proclaimed

III. The Incarnate Word – Vs. 1a

A. From the Beginning

- 1. What it means
 - a. Could mean that Jesus has _____
 - b. Could also mean from the moment he was _____

B. Emphasis on the Incarnation

- 1. John here uses the human _____ to dispel any notion that Jesus was not fully human

IV. The Word of Life – Vv. 1-2

A. The Word

- 1. _____ & meaningful title
- 2. The Word is the “creative self-expression of God” by which he _____ the universe
- 3. The Word is that which holds the universe together and gives _____ to the universe and to our lives

B. The Word of Life

- 1. John 1:4
 - a. Life is in _____
- 2. He is *the* _____
- 3. The eternal life of God has come to us through Jesus – through his _____
- 4. John witnessed not only Jesus' earthly life before his death
 - a. He also witnessed his _____ and _____
- 5. He is testifying to the _____ of the Gospel
 - a. But he is saying that that truth is _____ in Jesus Christ who died and rose again

V. The Word and Fellowship – Vv. 3-4

A. The Purpose

1. That his readers might have _____ with him and other believers
2. And that fellowship is also with _____ and _____

B. Christian Community

1. Community involves _____ with other believers in a shared _____ of Christ
2. It is more than _____
 - a. There is a _____ component to it
 - b. Burge quote
3. Christian fellowship is, in fact, _____
 - a. What happens as we grow closer to God?
4. Implicitly John is saying, “If you have fellowship with us, you have fellowship with _____.”

C. Reason for writing – vs. 4

1. John is saying that his own joy cannot be _____ if fellow believers are in danger of being led _____

VI. The Message – Vv. 5-7

A. This is the Message

1. Signals a _____
2. Here the message is “_____ is _____”

B. God is Light – Vs. 5

1. The message we have heard from _____
2. Consistent with _____ teaching about God’s character
3. Also consistent with what _____ said about himself
4. John’s logic
 - a. God is _____
 - b. Jesus is God come to _____
 - c. Therefore, Jesus brought light – _____ – to the Earth
5. So God is light
 - a. That light reveals truth, but it also _____ our hearts and actions
 - b. It _____ whether or not we are living in the light of God’s Son

C. Life in the Darkness – Vs. 6

1. If we claim
 - a. They claimed to have _____ with God
2. Walking
3. Do not live by the truth
 - a. Literally means “They do not ____ the truth”
4. It is not enough to claim to _____ God

D. Walking in the Light – Vs. 7

1. Walking – again *Peripateo*
 - a. Our way of _____ should be in step with God and his Truth
2. We _____ with him
3. Results
 - a. Genuine _____ with other believers
 - b. Our sins are _____
4. John is making a connection
 - a. Between our relationship with each _____ and our relationship with _____
5. The secessionists had destroyed the fabric of the Christian _____
6. Forgiveness of _____
 - a. Because walking in the light allows us to see ourselves as we really are, it brings a recognition of our _____
 - b. That leads to repentance, confession, and _____

VII. Application: Foundational Truth

A. Doctrine Worth Dying For

1. This is one: God _____ our world in the form of Jesus Christ in order that we might be made right with God
 - a. Jesus was fully _____ and fully _____
2. This is another: In him (Jesus) and him alone is _____ _____

B. Barna Poll

1. _____% of Americans believe in God or gods that have power over the universe
2. _____% of Americans believe that all of the world's religions essentially pray to the same God
3. _____% of those who called themselves evangelicals agreed
4. _____% of those who called themselves born again agreed
5. _____% who identified themselves as "regular church attendees" agreed

C. Jesus is the Light of the World

1. He _____ life
2. He _____ the only way to eternal life with God

D. We Must Do the Truth

1. Our way of _____ must be in his light
2. And it is in this _____ and only in this connection, that we have true, genuine fellowship with each other

E. Starting Point

1. This truth of an _____ God who came to Earth so that we might have fellowship both with _____ and with _____ is not just the starting point for John's letter
 - a. It must be the starting point for our _____