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The Fellowship of the Church

1 John 1:1-7

I. Jesus is a Real Person Who Is Divine (vv. 1-2)

A. The Word of Life is _____ (v. 1a)
[Jn. 1:1-3, 14; Heb. 1:2; 13:8; Rev. 22:13; Isa. 40:8]

B. The Word of Life is _____ (v. 1b)
[Lk. 24:39; Jn. 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:16]

C. The Word of life is _____ (v. 2)
[Rom. 1:1-6, 18-20]

II. Jesus is the Reason for Our Fellowship (v. 3)

A. True fellowship always _____ with Jesus (v. 3a)
[Jn. 14:21-23; 2 Cor. 6:14; Jn. 8:19; 1 Jn. 2:22]

B. True fellowship always _____ to the Father (v. 3b)
[Rev. 3:20; Jn. 3:16; 6:44]

C. True fellowship always _____ between believers (v. 3c)
[Acts 2:42; 2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 3:10]

III. Jesus is Who We Rejoice In (v. 4)

A. Joy comes from the Christ-centered _____ (Phil. 1:3-5)

B. Joy comes from _____ (Jn. 3:29-30)

C. Joy comes from _____ in the body (Jn. 17:11-13)

D. Joy comes from _____ to face interaction (2 Jn. 1:12)

E. Joy comes from the _____ of a godly family (3 Jn. 4)

IV. Jesus is Replacing Darkness with Light (vv. 5-7)

A. We know that God is _____, and in Him there is no darkness (v. 5)
[Jn. 8:12]

B. We were walking in the _____ (v. 6)
[1 Jn. 2:11; Jn. 12:35]

C. We now have _____ in the light (v. 7)
[Heb. 10:4, 10-14; Isa. 2:5; 1 Jn. 1:9]

TAKE HOME

- Small groups are a way for us to **practice** Christ-centered fellowship
- Small groups are a way for us to **serve** each other by practicing all the one another's
- Small groups are a way for you to **stay** in the light and not drift back into the darkness

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. Read 1 John 1:1. What is the book of 1 John about? In what does this verse point towards Christ’s eternity? (Jn. 1:1-3, 14; Heb. 1:2; 13:8; Rev. 22:13; Isa. 40:8) In what way does verse 1 point to evidence of Christ’s existence? (Lk. 24:39; Jn. 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:16)

2. Read 1 John 1:2. How did John experience Jesus? How can we experience Jesus today? Talk about how creation, the conscience, and the cross all point to a real relationship you can have with Jesus. (Rom. 1:1-6, 18-20)

3. Read 1 John 1:3. How does this verse teach that Jesus is the reason for our fellowship? How is it that our fellowship begins with Jesus? (Jn. 14:21-23; 2 Cor. 6:14; Jn. 8:19; 1 Jn. 2:22) In what does that same fellowship extend to the Father? (Rev. 3:20; Jn. 3:16; 6:4)

4. How is it that what was discussed in question 3 becomes the basis for our fellowship with one another? Can you experience fellowship with unbelievers? (Acts 2:42; 2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 3:10)

5. Read 1 John 1:4. How does joy in the Lord and fellowship with one another go together? Which one of these five examples encouraged you the most? Why? (Phil. 1:3-5; Jn. 3:29-30; 17:11-13; 2 Jn. 12; 3 Jn. 4)

6. Read 1 John 1:5-7. How does walking in the light help us maintain fellowship with one another? What happens when we don’t walk in the light? 1 Jn. 2:11; Jn. 12:35; Heb. 10:4, 10-14; Isa. 2:5; 1 Jn. 1:9)

7. Read the take home points. Which one challenged you or encouraged you the most? Why? Which small group do you plan to become a part of? How will participating in a small group help you apply this message?

Fellowship is a specifically Christian word and denotes that common participation in the grace of God, the salvation of Christ and the indwelling Spirit which is the spiritual birthright of all believers. It is our common possession of God— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which makes us one.”

- John Stott