

1 John 1:1

I am excited to share with you ladies what I have learned while studying 1 John. In the book of 1 John we will study the biblical view of Jesus, sin, obedience, faith, truth, eternal life, hope, love, fellowship, and false teachers/doctrine.

John was the writer of John, 1, 2 & 3 John and Revelation. John and James his older brother were known as “as the sons of Zebedee” (Matt. 10:2-4), whom Jesus gave the name “Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:17). John was known as the disciple whom Jesus loved, the one who reclined on Jesus breast at the last supper, and was at the Mount of Transfiguration. John was a follower of Christ from the earliest days of Christ ministry and was advanced in years when he wrote this epistle and still actively ministering to the churches. He was the last remaining apostle who had an intimate association with Christ throughout His earthly ministry, death, resurrection and ascension. At the time this epistle was written, false teachers began rising from within the Church with philosophy and false doctrine. These heresies threatened to destroy the fundamentals of the faith and the churches. This became known as Gnosticism (having “secret” knowledge). Influenced by philosophers such as Plato. These false teachers attributed some form of deity to Christ, but denied His true humanity to preserve Him from evil. It also claimed a higher mystical knowledge of truth that was even higher than the Scripture. Such heretical views not only destroy the true humanity of Jesus, but also the atonement, for Jesus must not only have been truly God, but also the truly human (and physically real) man who actually suffered and died upon the cross in order to be the acceptable substitutionary sacrifice for sin. The biblical view of Jesus affirms His complete humanity as well as His full deity. *John MacArthur Study Bible*

False doctrine is any idea that adds to, takes away from, contradicts, or nullifies the doctrine given in God’s Word.

Unlike the false teachers who were wrongly professing about Christ who they had never seen or known, John was an eyewitness and participant in Jesus earthly ministry. John is testifying a firsthand experience of seeing, knowing and being with Jesus Christ and what he witnessed.

John 19:35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life.

1 John 2:13 I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father.

What does it require to be a reliable eyewitness in a court of law?

Attention to detail, observation of actions, good memory, the truth! We need to see the whole picture through the eye of the eyewitness. Someone who was there and saw the whole incident unfold.

If you were to witness a crime would you be a reliable witness? Have any of you been and eyewitness in court before? I would have to say that I would not be a great witness, maybe a good witness at best. Being married to a retired policeman, this is not good news. One day while driving with my husband, we saw a man that had pulled to the side of the road, he exited his car and opened his trunk. That's where my account of the incident stops. My husband said, "That man is putting a gun in his trunk." I said, "How did you see that as we were driving by?" All I saw was the man heading to his trunk. My husband proceeded to tell me what type of gun the man was putting in his trunk, what color shirt and pants he was wearing and approximately how tall he was. My husband's attention to detail was evident. He would be the witness I would want in the court room. He was a reliable witness. If I was to ask you what happened that day Mike and I saw the man who got out of his car and headed to his trunk, could you tell me in exact detail what happened? Why not? You would have to witness the incident yourself in order to know what happened and even then you would not be able to give a complete accurate account of what each of us saw.

John was in the company of Jesus and had an intimate relationship with Him. John claims to be a competent witness in reference to everything which occurred as a manifestation of what the Son of God was.

John 21:24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

That which was from the beginning:

That which was from the beginning is in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, or the "Word" that was made flesh.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

John 8:25 Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning.

When Jesus said, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning does not mean He has told them before. He declares that He is consistently the unchanging expression of His own teaching and testimony from the first, immutable (unchanging over time or unable to be changed) embodiment of His doctrine. *Strong's Expanded Exhausted Concordance*

Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I am He.'"

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Who are these verses referring to?

That essential Good, that uncreated Excellence, which had been from the beginning, from eternity, as equal with the Father, and which at length appeared in human nature for the salvation of sinners, was the great subject concerning which the apostle wrote to his brethren.

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last."

Revelation 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

Who is Jesus declaring Himself to be?

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Jesus is God incarnate! The exact image of God. He always was. He was in intimate fellowship with God the Father throughout all eternity.

Colossians 1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Which we have heard.

John recorded more of what the Lord said than any of the other evangelists. John heard Jesus teaching publicly and privately. John based his evidence of what Jesus said of himself, that He was the Son of God.

Acts 4:20 "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Do you think that John and the disciples carefully observed and examined at all the things Jesus said and did while they were with Him? What are some of the things they would have been observing of Jesus?

When I was looking for a Church 3 years ago, I came to Valley Bible. I remember being wide-eyed and taking everything in. During worship I observed the words of the songs to see if they proclaimed truth. I observed the sermon and if the Word of God was proclaimed accurately. I observed how the people mingled with one another. Did they love each other? Was their love for God evident? Yes I even observed women's Bible study. I was carefully observing and evaluating whether to make Valley Bible my home church.

Seen with our eyes.

John saw Jesus as what He was as a man. He saw his character, wisdom, love and mercy. Jesus was seen with his eyes at the transfiguration on the Mount, His hanging, bleeding, dying and His death on the cross and he saw Jesus after His return from the grave. This is not hearsay, John is testifying to have seen enough evidence that He was the Son of God.

Acts 1:3 To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

2 Peter 1:16-18 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

In what ways have you seen Christ at work in your life?

Which we have looked upon.

To look closely at as when we are looking for someone we desire to see, or when someone goes out purposely to look on an object. This was not just a casual glance. John looked closely and intently with awe and wonder and what he had witnessed. The evidences of the incarnation of the Son of God had been observed closely! He along with other reliable witnesses based their testimony on solid evidence.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

How can we be reliable witnesses?

And our hands have handled.

Here was more evidence that Jesus was a man and John touched Him with his own hands. There was no denying His humanity. Jesus was not an illusion as some false teachers were claiming!

Luke 24:39 "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

John 20:26-27 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he (Thomas) said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

By showing the disciples His wounds, what would that prove?

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

John and the disciples had seen His nail wounds giving proof of Jesus resurrection. Our Savior was truly incarnate! Jesus proved Who He was, He did exactly what He said He was going to do and John was there to witness it! They went on to preach and teach this Truth to others.

Acts 13:48 Now the Gentiles heard this they were glad and glorified the Word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

How can we proclaim the living Christ to others?

One way we communicate to one another is through our words. What kind of positive emotions do our words produce when talking to others? Blessing, encouragement, peace, kind, and love. We can say things that sound good to the hearer and yet they may not be truthful. Why is that? We can say things and not mean it. Our words can sound good to the hearer, but we can have the wrong attitude in our heart. Our words are spoken from imperfect and sinful beings.

Jesus words on the other hand are pure, perfect, accurate, free from error, exact, faultless, truthful, holy... The One who created us and sustains us moment by moment, has expressed Himself to us in human words. Jesus is the Word of God embodied and He alone possesses this eternal life. Life changing truth that sanctifies.

Concerning the Word of Life.

One of the titles of our Lord. Christ is the revealer of God. His office is to make God known. This title designates the divine nature of Christ. *Easton Bible Dictionary*

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

The plainest reason why the Son of God is called the Word, seems to be, that as our words explain our minds to others, so was the Son of God sent in order to reveal his Father's mind to the world. What the evangelist says of Christ proves that he is God. He asserts, His existence in the beginning; His coexistence with the Father. The Word was with God. All things were made by him, and not as an instrument. Without him was not anything made that was made, from the highest angel to the meanest worm. This shows how well qualified he was for the work of our redemption and salvation. The light of reason, as well as the life of sense, is derived from him, and depends upon him. *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary*

Word (Logos): The Eternal Word, expressing the thoughts of the Father through the Spirit.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Philippians 2:16 Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Revelation 19:13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

This Logos Who has always existed and always was, came in the flesh. He willingly gave up His heavenly status and had all the essence or attributes of deity. The Word of Life never ceased to be God but took on a genuine human nature/body to give proof of His existence so that all who believe in Him would be saved.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

1 John 5:10-12 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Of Life (Zoe): Life in the absolute sense (physical and spiritual), it always (only) comes from and is sustained by God's self-existent life. The Lord intimately shares His gift of life with people, creating each in His image which gives all the capacity to know His eternal life. *Strong's Expanded Exhausted Concordance*

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 5:26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

2 Timothy 1:10 But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Belief in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God is the only way of being saved from sin and hell and receiving eternal life. Only Jesus Christ is the One true source for the knowledge of God and the one basis for spiritual security. The gospel, which promises that those who are spiritually dead but by faith embrace the gospel message, will be united to Christ and find eternal life in Him. *John MacArthur Study Bible*

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 12:50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

Conclusion:

Because of our faith in Jesus Christ we have become partakers of His Eternal Life! My sisters in Christ, how blessed we are! Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29) We too have our own testimony. We have seen our Lord do the impossible in our lives through the experiences we have gone through. We have seen Him answer prayers and we have the faith of Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. We are children of God and we have been called according to His purpose. What will others see from our testimony? Will we share His words of eternal life to unbelievers? Will we be bold in proclaiming the truth? Will we invest time in His Word getting to know Who He is and what truths His Word proclaims? We only have one life to live and serve Him on this earth. Let’s live it well, always and only for our Savior! Let’s be faithful servants until the end!

Thank You Father for being the perfect Eternal One. Thank You Jesus because of Your great love for us, You willingly give up Your life. We did not deserve it and yet You have chosen to give us eternal life. Because of the Word of Life we can enjoy a relationship with You and spend eternity with our Lord and Savior. How grateful we are that You have given us the Helper to guide us in Your truth. Help us Lord to pass on this truth, the gospel message. May we go out with boldness proclaiming this Truth! Amen