

Series: Family Fellowship  
"The Truth about Jesus" # 2  
1 John 1:1-4  
4-15-18 PM

1. Last week we looked at the 4 reasons John wrote First John-

He wanted the Christian's joy to be full.  
He wanted to prevent sin in the life of Christians.  
He wanted to protect Christians from the seducers.  
He wanted Christians to know they are saved.

2. I have entitled this series, "Family Fellowship." This fellowship is made possible by Jesus Christ. John says our joy can be full when we understand the Biblical view of Jesus.

There are many wrong views about Jesus and even in the church some have redefined the nature and work of Jesus.

**TT:** John tells us two truths about Jesus.

**I. The Reality of the Incarnation [1:1-2]. Two thoughts-**

John is countering a heresy known as Gnosticism, which comes from the Greek word *gnosis* meaning to "know." The Gnostics believed that all matter was evil and so they could not believe that Jesus had an actual physical, material body, it was a hallucination or phantom. They denied his humanity.

They believed that the divine Christ came upon him at his baptism and departed at his crucifixion. They did not believe in the incarnation- he was the God-man.

1. Jesus Christ was from the beginning [v.1a].

Christ was pre-existent with the Father. But here his purpose is to prove He was the God-man. Jesus was God from the beginning.

**John 1:1-2**, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." Jesus Christ is coexistent, coeternal, and coequal with God.

1. Jesus Christ was from the beginning [v.1a].

2. Jesus Christ was made flesh [v. 1b-2].

We move from eternity to time to see the manifested Jesus. Manifested means "to appear" or "to be visible." The eternal Christ was born in human flesh and lived on earth.

**1 Tim. 3:16**, “Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.”

**John 1:14**, “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”

John appeals to 3 human senses to prove Jesus was flesh.

(1). *Hearing*- John probably heard Jesus more than any other disciple. Kenneth Wuest says they the voice of Jesus was still ringing in John’s ears when he pinned this letter.

(2). *Seeing*- John saw him with his own eyes he was not a Hallucination. “Looked upon” means the word from which we get *theater*. It more than a glimpse but a gaze. To look with examination, perception, discerning or understanding.

(3). *Handled*- John is saying we touched him, he had a real physical body. He was also resurrected bodily on the third day.

### **I. The Reality of the Incarnation [1:1-2].**

1. He was from the beginning
2. He became flesh.

### **II. The Reasons for the Incarnation [1:3].**

We can know this Jesus by experience. Fellowship means “to have in common,” “to share something together.” We have a horizontal and vertical fellowship.

#### **1. Fellowship with a family [v. 3a]. Horizontal**

Some teach the father-hood of God. We are all brothers and sisters, we are family! We are all creations but not brothers in Christ.

There are two families in the world- the family of the devil and the family of God. We get into the family of God by spiritual birth. We get into the family of the devil by natural birth.

To be in the family, the local N.T. Church, is the best fellowship on earth. The world may give you friendship, but they can’t give you fellowship.

#### **2. Fellowship with the Father and the Son [v. 3b]. Vertical**

We have fellowship with God thru Bible study and prayer. You read the Bible and God talks to you, you pray and talk to God then he talks back!

**Con:** Note verse 1:4

Full means “to be filled full.” Lost people can have pleasure, but not true joy. The joy of salvation or rejoicing in the Lord.

We should have full joy when we understand who Jesus Christ is, when we understand the gospel, and eternal life.

It should bring us joy to be a Christian, having our sins forgiven, possessing the indwelling of the Spirit, working in the Kingdom thru a local church, and having a home in heaven.