

Know Him and Make Him Known (1 John 1:1–4)

I. Intro -

- A. We live in a time when it has never been easier to know about Jesus.
 - 1. You can listen to sermons every day.
 - 2. Watch theology videos all week.
 - 3. Follow pastors, scholars, and Christian creators online.
 - 4. Read books, articles, posts, and podcasts endlessly.
- B. And yet, at the very same time, it has never been easier to have a faith that is thin, distant, and disconnected.
 - 1. Disconnected from real people.
 - 2. Disconnected from real community.
 - 3. Disconnected from real obedience.
 - 4. Disconnected from any real experience of God.
- C. So here is the question:
 - 1. Can you really know God deeply from a distance?
 - 2. Can you love God and love people in isolation?
 - 3. Can Christianity be reduced to content, opinions, and information?
- D. For many people, Christianity has become exactly that:
 - 1. A set of ideas to affirm. A philosophy to debate. A worldview to post about. A political identity to wear. An argument to win.
 - 2. But not a relationship to live in.
 - 3. That is the kind of confusion John is addressing in this letter.
- E. As Steve mentioned last week, we may not know every detail of the false teaching behind 1 John, but we know enough to see the danger.
 - 1. These false teachers denied that Jesus truly came in the flesh.
 - 2. They claimed either to be without sin, or that their sin did not really matter.
 - 3. And their beliefs did not produce love, holiness, or fellowship. They produced division, deception, and fractured community.
 - 4. They left the churches, and they pulled others with them.
- F. Into that mess, John speaks with clarity and urgency: “That is not the faith handed down from the beginning.”
 - 1. In essence, John says: We did not just study Jesus. We did not just speculate about Him. We heard Him. We saw Him. We touched Him. We lived with Him.
- G. Christianity is not a disembodied theory. It is not abstract religion. It is not facts for the mind.
- H. Christianity is about a real Savior who really came so that we could have a real relationship with God that produces real joy in real fellowship with one another.
- I. That is what 1 John 1:1–4 is all about.
- J. Big Idea: Jesus came in human flesh as the witness of the Father to bring us into joyful fellowship with God and with one another. And now He sends us as His witnesses to bring others into that same joy.

1 John 1:1–4, 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— 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— 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. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

II. Jesus came as God in human flesh

- A. John opens with a big claim: “That which was from the beginning...”
 - 1. Who is he talking about? Jesus Christ — the eternal Son of God, the One who was with the Father from the beginning.
 - 2. This echoes John 1, God took on humanity. But before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He already was. He is eternal. He is divine. He is the Son.
- B. John says: We heard Him. We saw Him with our eyes. We looked at Him closely. We touched Him with our hands.
- C. In other words, Jesus was not an idea, a myth, a spirit, a religious symbol, or a metaphor for life → He was God in human flesh.
 - 1. They touched His hands. They watched Him grow weary. They ate with Him. They heard His voice. They saw Him weep at Lazarus’ tomb.
- D. John is saying: Jesus is fully God and fully man.
 - 1. The One who was from the beginning became someone they could hear, see, and touch.
- E. Why does that matter? Because if Jesus did not truly come in the flesh, then He could not truly save us. He had to come in the flesh to be:
 - 1. **Our Representative** — the second Adam, obeying where the first Adam failed.
 - 2. **Our Substitute** — shedding real blood, dying a real death, bearing real judgment for real sinners.
 - 3. **Our High Priest** — entering our weakness, understanding our suffering, and representing us before the Father.
- F. Jesus did not save us from a distance. He came near. He stepped into our world. He took on our humanity without our sin. He entered our sorrow, our weakness, our mortality.
- G. This doctrine, called the incarnation is not peripheral. It is at the center of the gospel.

H. Jesus came as God in human flesh

III. Jesus came as the witness of the Father

- A. John calls Him “the word of life” and says that “the life was made manifest.”
- B. That means the invisible God has made Himself known in Jesus Christ.
- C. If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.
 - 1. Colossians says He is the image of the invisible God.
 - 2. Hebrews says He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature.
- D. Jesus does not merely tell us about God. Jesus shows us God.

1. He reveals the Father perfectly.
 2. He speaks the Father's words perfectly.
 3. He obeys the Father perfectly.
 4. He displays the Father's heart perfectly.
- E. That matters because many people carry distorted views of God.
- F. Some imagine the Father is cold, harsh, and distant, while Jesus is compassionate and merciful. But Jesus does not come as the PR campaign for an unwilling Father. He comes to reveal the Father truly.
- G. The Father sent the Son. The Son obeyed the Father. The Son reveals the Father.
- H. When you see Jesus healing, forgiving, welcoming, confronting sin, showing compassion, speaking truth, laying down His life — you are seeing the heart of God.
- I. Jesus came so that we could know who the Father is. Not vaguely, partially, or through speculation, but personally and truly (we saw, we touched, we heard...)
- J. As Jesus said in John 17, "I made known to them your name."
1. He came to make the Father known with His life, His words, His death, and His resurrection.
 2. So Christianity is not just the transfer of information.
 3. It is the self-revelation of God in His Son.

K. **Jesus came as the witness of the Father**

IV. Jesus came to bring us into joyful fellowship

- A. John tells us exactly why he is proclaiming Christ: *"So that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."*
- B. Then he says: *"And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."*
- C. Do not miss this. Jesus came not only to forgive your sin, but to bring you into fellowship.
1. Fellowship with God and His people.
 2. You were designed from community → with God and with his church
 3. And that fellowship produces joy
- D. In a disconnected world, and a disconnected culture, this is remarkable news: God does not merely rescue you from judgment. He brings you into relationship.
- E. Jesus came so that sinners could be welcomed into the life and joy of God.
- F. That is why He prays in John 17 that His people would be one, and that they would be in the Father and the Son.
- G. That is why He says in John 15, "that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."
- H. The joy Jesus gives is not shallow happiness. It is the deep gladness of restored relationship with God.
1. Real fellowship produces real joy. Isolation from God destroys joy.
 2. Isolation from God's people diminishes joy. But fellowship with God and His family fills it.

3. That is one of the many reasons God has designed us to be together in a covenant community (called the church)
- I. Jesus came so that you would not just know truths about God. He came so that you would know God.
- J. **Jesus came to bring us into joyful fellowship**
- V. For us:
 - A. John does not write this so we will admire it. He writes so that we will enter into it — and then extend it to others.
 - B. In the same way the Father sent the Son, the Son now sends us.
 - C. Jesus sends you in the flesh**
 1. He sends you where you live, work, learn, and play.
 2. Not just your content. Not just your opinions. Not just your posts online.
 3. He sends you.
 4. Christian witness is personal, embodied, and relational.
 5. People need more than arguments.
 6. They need to see the life of Christ formed in ordinary people.
 7. They need to encounter believers who love well, repent honestly, forgive quickly, serve humbly, and walk closely with Jesus.
 - D. Jesus sends you as a witness**
 1. John says, “what we have seen and heard we proclaim.”
 2. A witness speaks of what he has seen.
 3. Yes, doctrine matters, truth matters, theology matters
 4. But Christian witness is more than repeating correct information. It is testifying to the transforming power of the Christ you know.
 5. Can you speak not only about what Jesus taught, but about what Jesus has done in you?
 6. Can you speak of His mercy, His patience, His power, His faithfulness?
 7. Can you say, “I have seen His grace change me”?
 8. That is more powerful than whether you can win an argument with your youtube apologetics
 - E. Jesus sends you to bring others into fellowship**
 1. You are not sent to make converts to an idea.
 2. You are sent so that people might be brought into fellowship with God and His people.
 3. We are:
 - a) Saved to be sent.
 - b) Reconciled to become a reconciler.
 - c) Shown mercy so that you can point others to mercy.
 - d) Jesus has been revealed to you so that He may be made known through you.
- VI. Conclusion
 - A. Some people have settled for a version of Christianity that John would barely recognize.

- B. They know facts. They hold opinions. They affirm doctrine. But they are not walking closely with Jesus.
- C. They are not living in real fellowship with His people.
- D. They are not experiencing the joy Christ came to give.
- E. John says: do not settle for that.
- F. Jesus did not come merely to inform your mind. He came to bring you into fellowship. Into communion. Into joy.
- G. So do not settle for just knowing about Him.
- H. Know Him. Walk with Him. Abide in Him.
- I. Live among His people. Receive the joy He gives.
- J. And then go make Him known.
 - 1. Go in the flesh — as a real person sent by a real Savior.
 - 2. Go as a witness — one who has truly seen, heard, and experienced the grace of Christ.
 - 3. Go so that more sons and daughters may be brought into the family of God.