



Who (1-3)

Gen 1:1; John 1:1

Who is meant by "we?"

We Know: Study of 1 John (1:1-10)

Series of five descriptive clauses (1,3)

^[1] That which was from the **beginning**, ^[2] which **we** have ^[3] **heard**, which we have ^[4] **seen** with our **eyes**, which we **looked upon** and have **touched** with our **hands**, **concerning the word of life**

Direct refutation of early Gnostic teaching

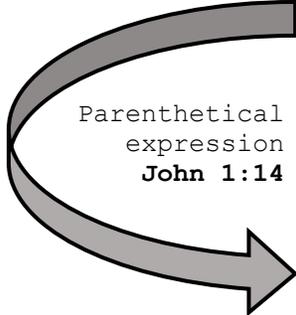


They denied that the Christ came in the flesh

Parenthetical expression John 1:14

^[2] 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**

Explains how the statements in verse 1 were possible



Why (3-4)

Purpose in writing the epistle -John 16:24

^[5] 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**.

What (2-3)

Fellowship = Κοινωνία - koinonia: lit. partnership

Salvation is social -> We can experience it ONLY as part of the whole people of God.

^[4] And we are writing these things **so that** our joy may be complete.

Fact (5)

Him = the WORD of life (1)

God's Essence He IS light Compare to... John 4:24 (spirit) 1 John 4:8 (love)

Verses 1-4 represent a single periodic sentence in Greek

^[5] This is the message **we have heard from him** and **proclaim to you**, that **God is light**, and in him is **no darkness** at all. <- Mt 5:48; Jn 3:19-21; 8:12; Eph 5:8-14; Jam 1:13-18; 1Tim 6:13-16; 1Pe 2:9

Five Contrasting "If" statements

Tense in the original Greek indicates continual action

Light and Darkness -John 1:3-9; 3:19-21

^[6] **If** we say we have **fellowship** with him while we **walk in darkness**, **we lie** and do not practice the truth.

Obedience (2:3-6) God cannot be associated with darkness (i.e. sin)

^[7] But **if** we walk in the **light**, as he is in the **light**, **we have fellowship with one another**, and the **blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin**.

Who is included in "one another?" (v. 3)

Fellowship & Forgiveness (6-10)

These two concepts cannot be separated!

^[8] **If** we say we have no sin, **we deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us. <- Ecc 7:20; Isa 53:6; Rom 3:10, 23; 5:12

Walking in light is not demonstrated by denial but by acknowledgement of sins (Matt 5:3; James 5:16)

^[9] **If** we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Gen 3:1-5; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18

Boasts and refutation of early Gnostic teaching

They denied that sin committed in the body had any effect on their spirit

Rom 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

^[10] **If** we say we have not sinned, **we make him a liar**, and his word is not in us.

This boast is repeated (8) to show that not only do we deceive ourselves when we deny sin, but we are also calling God a liar!