

**Series "Following After God"**  
**"Jesus Is Life"**  
**1 John 1:1-4**  
**Study-1**

**1 John** presents the genuine marks of a person that is "Following After God"; What does a genuine Child of God look like?

**Walking in Fellowship** – With God and others!

**Walking in Truth** – Increasing in the knowledge of Him!

**Walking in Righteousness** – Increasing in God's likeness

**Walking in Love** – Loving more!

**Walking in Assurance** –

**Introduction to 1 John:**

**The Author** – John the Apostle "The Beloved"

1. External Evidence -
2. Internal Evidence -
3. Style and Vocabulary – The terms like light and darkness, truth and falsehood

**When Written** – about 90 AD.

**Where it was Written** – Probably from Ephesus

**Written To** – John along with the Epistles of James, Peter and Jude are called "General Epistles"

1 John 5:13

**Background** – John now close to his 80's writes this letter to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Christians, and at a time when apostasy had begun to creep in.

Acts 20:29-30

Gnostics – a mixture of Greek philosophy, Judaism and Mystery Religions.

Gnostics – View of Salvation Taught salvation through knowledge rather than through faith. Involved secret knowledge known only to its initiates. The higher the rank, the more one can know. God was good, matter absolutely evil.

Gnostics – View of Jesus One group said that Jesus seemed to be flesh and blood but not in reality. Another group said He was just a descendent of Mary and Joseph. He became more than flesh and blood at his baptism. But when Jesus died on the cross, this nature left Him, and he was just a man, not deity.

Gnostics – View of Holiness one needs to isolate and withdraw from society, live in separation. The flesh is corrupt so it matters not what one does because the flesh is evil and that’s all that it produces.

John calls men back to truth about the real Jesus: 1 John 1:6

**John Presents 3 Tests**, which he repeats again and again in one form or another in his letter:

1. The Moral Test: The Test of righteousness or obedience.
2. The Social Test: The Test of Love.
3. The Doctrinal Test: The Test of the belief in Jesus Christ.

**Key phrase** – “These things have I written...” 7X

**Purpose** – The phrase “I am writing these things” 7X:

1. 1 John 1:4 - That our joy may be full
2. 1 John 2:1- That we may not sin
3. 1 John 2:7-10 - That we would love each one another
4. 1 John 2:12-14 - That we would grow to spiritual maturity
5. 1 John 2:21 - That we would know the truth
6. 1 John 2:26 – That you would not be deceived
7. 1 John 5:13 - That we may know that we have eternal life.

**Theme** – 1 John – “Fellowship With God”; “Following After God”

**Key Words** – Know – 35X, World – 23X, Love – 21X, Truth – 9X, Light – 6X

**Key Chapter** – 1 John 1 along with John 15 are the two central passages that teach how to be in continued fellowship with God.

John 15 – The positive side of fellowship is abiding in Christ.

1 John 1 – The negative side that when a Christian does not abide they must seek forgiveness before fellowship can be restored.

**Key Passage** – 1 John 5:11-13

## Outline –

1. 1 John 1:1-2:2 Maintaining Fellowship:
2. 1 John 2:3-27 Maintaining Truth:
3. 1 John 2:28-3:10 Maintaining Righteousness:
4. 1 John 3:11-4:21 Maintaining Love:
5. 1 John 5:1-21 Maintaining Assurance:

### **1. Verse 1 – The Beginning Of Life**

### **2. Verse 2 – The Experience Of Life**

### **3. Verse 3 – The Fellowship Of Life**

### **4. Verse 4 – The Joy Of Life**

### **1. Verse 1 – The Beginning Of Life:**

John reveals 4 truths about the real Jesus:

1. Jesus Is Eternal: What was from the beginning,

There are 3 Beginnings in Scripture:

1. The Beginning of the Universe: Gen 1:1
2. The Beginning which Began the Beginning: John 1:1
3. The Beginning of the Christian Experience: 1 John 1:1  
1 John 5:12

from the beginning; Doctrine of “The Eternality of Jesus Christ” which means that “Jesus the second person of the trinity had no beginning, He always existed and Jesus has no end, He will always be.”

Gen 1:1

2. Jesus Was Historical: What was from the beginning,
3. Jesus Was Physical: what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life—

1 John 1:2

We Heard Jesus: what we have heard,  
John 7:46

We Saw Jesus: what we have seen with our eyes,

John 20:8

John 20:29

We Touched Jesus: what we beheld and our hands handled,

John 13:23

Luke 24:39

4. Jesus Is Deity: concerning the Word of Life – John 1:1-3

Heb 1:1-2

## **2. Verse 2 – The Experience Of Life:**

and the life was manifested; this is the Doctrine of “The Incarnation of the Son of God”

John 1:10 Phil 2:7-8

witness – Greek word taken from the courts of law, “bearing testimony to what one has seen”

proclaim to you; suggests “a commission from Christ with authority”

1 Cor 1:9

Mark of A Genuine Child Of God – A Personal Relationship With Jesus Christ: and was manifested to us – The term manifested – “to make apparent, to make public”

## **3. Verse 3 – The Fellowship Of Life:**

Mark of A Genuine Child Of God – We Must Have It To Share It: what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, Matt 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8

fellowship – “partnership, participation, communion, sharer, associate, companion, partaker”; Sharing thought and interests together.

#### **4. Verse 4 – The Joy Of Life:**

so that our joy may be made complete; Literally, “His joy is their joy, the only way John would have joy would be for his readers to experience his joy”

#### **Application:**

1. Do I believe in the Eternal, Historical, Physical Son of God?
2. Do I have a personal testimony of Jesus Christ?
3. Do I have a growing fellowship with other believers?
4. Do I have the joy of life?