

CHAPTER ONE

Vs 1-4 Begins with a firsthand eyewitness account of what the author and his apostolic companions witnessed in Jesus Christ:

What we have heard (vs 3 also) perfect tense

What we have seen (vs 3 also) ongoing, shared experience

What we beheld

What our hands handled

(not the person of Christ) but rather, the "eternal life" which was with the Father and manifested to us

Jesus is "the true God and eternal life" 5:20

This life is the life his readers share 5:13

John is writing about what they witnessed in Jesus Christ,
WHO IS LIFE 5:11-12

Vs 2 The Apostles have seen this manifested life
They bear witness to it
They declare it to the readers Acts 1:4-8
This revelation was made only to the Apostles
They are now sharing this manifested life.

Vs 3 What the Apostles saw and heard cannot be experienced
by the readers until they enter His presence.

The Apostles can proclaim it, giving the readers the chance
to believe their message now. Jn 20:26-31

1 JOHN CHAPTER ONE

The purpose for John's writing:

To enable Fellowship; To protect their present fellowship
Fellowship (shared experiences, undertakings,
possessions, etc.)

A Fellowship with:

1. the Apostolic Witness
2. The Apostles' own Fellowship with the Father and His So
3. Fellowship with God cannot be experienced outside the Apostolic circle

Vs 4 John and the other Apostles experience great joy when those whom they lead to Christ are nurtured in the faith, and are true to the faith.

If the present letter succeeds, then that which they have heard from the beginning will abide in the readers.
True joy will be experienced by all.

Vs 5 The message we have heard from Him and announce:
"God is light; in Him there is no darkness; NONE!
(FREE FROM ALL MORAL DEFECT)

This must be understood for anyone desiring fellowship with Him.

GOD IS COMPLETELY HOLY (unlike the pagan gods represented throughout their culture).

1 JOHN CHAPTER ONE

Vs 6 "If we say..." vs 6,8,10

1. The believer who walks in sin has "lost touch with" the completely Holy God
2. If he claims to be in fellowship with God, he is lying.
Sinning believers ARE
OUT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

"practice the truth" means "to act consistently with the truth."
To claim to be in fellowship with God while walking in darkness is to behave contrary to the truth about God's Holiness.

Vs 7 Instead of walking in darkness, believers should walk in the light - live in God's presence, reflecting what He has revealed about Himself.

To walk in darkness - to hide from God and refuse to acknowledge what is known about Him.

Bottom Line: The believer who wants fellowship with the Lord must maintain an openness to Him and a willingness to be honest in His presence about everything that God shows him.

All Christians have already been cleansed (1Cor 6:11) and are fully forgiven (Eph 1:7) even though they remain sinful.

The "blood of Jesus" is also used to enable us to maintain our fellowship.

1 JOHN CHAPTER ONE

Vs 8 "If we say" we have no sin problem

We are self-deceived
The truth is not an active and controlling force that shapes
our thoughts and attitudes.

Vs 9 As long as believers walk in the light, that same light shows them
their failures.

When that happens: They confess their failures (sins)

NOTE: Repentance is not used in the context.

John is talking about believers who "discover" sin while
in fellowship with God. 1Jn 2:12-14

Their task is to abide. 1Jn 2:27,28

Repentance is needed when a believer has "walked away"
from God. Rev 2:5,16,21,22; 3:3,19

Confession of sin enables believers to remain in
fellowship.

Nowhere in John's writings is confession of sin a
requirement for salvation.

FAITH ALONE IS THE CONDITION

Jn 3:16; 5:24; 6:47; 1Jn 5:1, 12, 13

If believers deny what the light shows them, they
cease to be honest and open with God - and -
fellowship with Him ends.

If we agree with God about His revelation,
He is faithful and just to forgive us:

1. of the sin revealed
2. all unrighteousness we are not aware of.

NOTHING IS LEFT UNCLEANSED!

Vs 10 When sin is revealed, believers either confess it - or -
deny it.

If they do the latter:

1. they make Him a liar
2. they leave their fellowship with God