

John doesn't use the word *happiness*. Instead, he uses *joy*. How do these differ from one another? Which characterizes your life mostly?

Since inner joy is deepened by upward fellowship (1:4), what are some ways you can tell your fellowship with God is "on target?"

Turn to the last chapter of John's epistle and read 5:13. According to this verse, what is another benefit of fellowship?

Remember John's nickname – "beloved disciple?" Take a moment and reflect upon the concepts of **fellowship** and **love**. Why do you think John connects these two so strongly? What common elements do you see in both of them?

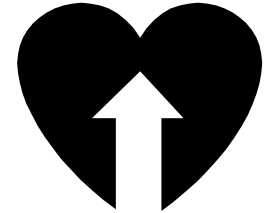
Scan through the remainder of John's letter this week and look for other references to the concept of fellowship. This is a consistent theme in John's writing, so it will play a predominant part in our study of the book. List the other references that point to the value of fellowship.

Essentially . . .

. . .fellowshipping with Jesus is the one factor in life that gives us deeper joy and confidence and a stronger ability to get along with others. Are you making fellowship with Jesus a major factor in your daily life?

The Fellowship Factor

John was known as the "beloved disciple," and it shows in several of his other letters. Read John 21:7 and 20 – who is the disciple referred to here as the "one Jesus loved?" Now read II John 1 and 5 – what common theme do you see in both verses? Understanding this, it is no wonder John talks a great deal about *being with Jesus* here in these first few verses of chapter 1.



Before you begin, read I John 1:1-4.

Study Questions:

In 1:1, who is John talking about? What makes you say that?

List the various senses John mentions in 1:1. What is the point of mentioning these different "proofs?"

1:2 seems to be a break in John's thought, a parenthetical phrase describing Jesus to a greater degree? Why do you think he put this in?

Compare 1:1-2 with another of John's written thoughts – John 1:14. What common phrases, ideas, or themes do you find in both passages? What was John trying to get across about Jesus?

Why do you think John was stressing the point that Jesus was a real person they had seen, heard, and touched?

According to 1:3 . . .

. . . they were proclaiming what they had “seen and heard,” which, according to 1:1-2, was who?

. . . what is the basis for fellowship with others?

. . . what word is used to emphasize John’s point that his fellowship with them was based on his fellowship with the Father and the Son? Why does he add such emphasis?

In a nutshell, 1:1-3 can be summed up by saying **fellowship with Jesus is where it all begins**. In light of that statement . . .

. . . define fellowship. Take a moment and check out a Bible dictionary, or use a concordance and cross-reference other verses that contain the word *fellowship*. Write out your discovery.

. . . what is a requirement for fellowship with Jesus? (Hint: Look at another of John’s former writings – John 1:12 – for what one must do to call God their Father.)

. . . evaluate your fellowship with Jesus. Is a relationship with Christ the priority of your life? How does this truth show up in your relationships, time, finances, etc? List at least three ways.

. . . examine your friendships. John says that his outward relationships were based on his upward fellowship. Are yours? What does that statement mean?

After John makes a clear case for starting and maintaining fellowship with Jesus, he explains one of the benefits of that lifestyle in 1:4. What is one result of fellowship?