

1 John 1:1 (NKJV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

- John likes to begin at the beginning
- For all of us our spiritual beginning starts with an encounter with Jesus, the living Word or the Word of life
- That which we have heard... John heard Jesus teach
- That which we have seen with our eyes... John saw Jesus
- Which we have looked upon... John observed Jesus
- Our hands hand handled... John physically touched Jesus
- Thus for John, faith is not a set of ideas or a religion
- The Christian faith is based on a living person who is alive today
- The words of Jesus are not just words about life... how to live a good life
- Many teachers treat the Bible like it's a book about life, how to live
- The words of Jesus are life, they release life, they produce life in us

1 John 1:2–4 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> the life was manifested (it appeared), and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare (to bring back someone else's message) to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested (appeared) to us—<sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship (koinonia) with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And these things we write to you that your joy may be full (generously supplied).

***Now in order to understand this passage, you need to understand***

- When John says life was manifested or eternal life was manifested, he is talking about the person of Jesus
- Jesus said, I am the way, the truth and the LIFE
- Second, the message John declares is given to him by Jesus
- It's important that we recognize that Christianity is not a belief system or a system of doctrine
- Christianity is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Every religion has volumes of books but if you took all the teachings of Jesus and put them in one book... it would be a few dozen pages

- Why? Because Christianity is based on fellowship (koinonia) with the Father and with Jesus Christ His Son and through our fellowship with God we have fellowship (koinonia) with each other

***Third, the meaning of the word Koinonia translated fellowship***

- Fellowship is more than getting together and talking over coffee
- It speaks of a partnership, a sharing with someone in something that has been received or achieved (speaking of their nature)
- Since we are all in fellowship with Christ, we are partners together, sharing together in the divine nature of Jesus Christ... that is the basis of our koinonia together
- As a result, if someone has need we share the abundance that God has blessed us with... money, food, housing, prayer, healing, salvation, teaching, wisdom... whatever God supplies
- This is why it's so important that we don't have koinonia with darkness
- Because we are sharing in the nature of evil as the basis of our koinonia together and thus sharing out of the abundance that darkness provides
- Thus, it's only as we are in fellowship with Jesus and out of our fellowship with Jesus in fellowship with each other is our joy full

**1 John 1:5–6 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup>This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

- John declares this is the message... God is light (literally daylight) and in Him is no darkness at all.
- Jesus said in John 8:12 – I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
- Jesus said in John 12 believe in the light that you may become sons of light... speaking of becoming born again

***Now light has substance***

- Light is made up of photons which contain energy which is moving so fast it can only be seen when it reflects off another surface
- Darkness has no energy, no substance
- Darkness is simply the absence of light

- Thus when John says... God is light and in Him is no darkness at all... it's literal... God is daylight and there is no absence of light in Him at all

***Now combine these two concepts... koinonia and God is light***

- John says, if you say you are in koinonia with light, meaning you are partaking of the divine nature which is light
- And you are walking or living in the absence of light (darkness) you are lying because it is impossible for light and dark to be in the same place
- You are not living (practicing) the truth, you are deceived
- Koinonia is a relational experience, it's all about sharing in the nature of God together and John says God is light

**1 John 1:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- John is not talking about how we walk, but where we walk
- Are you walking where it's daylight or darkness?
- If we are walking where Jesus is, then we're walking in the daylight
- In the daylight, we have fellowship, koinonia with one another
- And John says the blood of Jesus is continually cleansing us in the present tense, our sin is in a constant state of forgiveness

**1 John 1:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- Walking in the light doesn't mean I won't sin, but walking in the light means my sin is exposed and forgiven
- As long as I'm in darkness, my sin isn't exposed and there is no forgiveness, only condemnation and judgment
- John acknowledges there are times when I'm going to sin because I'm not perfect, I'm human

***So what do I do when I sin?***

**1 John 1:9–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- John is not giving us a formula for forgiveness of sins
- He is giving us a litmus test for those who are in the light
- The word confess means to agree with God about our sins
- People in the light don't lie about their sin, they don't cover it up
- They're honest about it, not because they need to confess to be forgiven but because they are already forgiven and cleansed from sin
- When I confess my sin, I am agreeing with what God says about my sin
- I'm forgiven, I'm cleansed, I'm free from the power of sin
- It doesn't mean I'm sinless or I've reached a state of sinless perfection

1 John 2:1–2 (NKJV)

**2** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- John begins with the ideal... that we may not sin
- But John knows we're going to sin and if we do Jesus, the righteous is our attorney before the Father
- John says Jesus is the propitiation for the sins for the whole world
- That means the wrath of God was poured on Jesus and fully exhausted at the cross and there is no more wrath left
- The debt mankind owed God for sin was paid in full

1 John 2:3–6 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

- John is not saying prove your love by obeying Jesus... that's legalism

- What John is saying is those who keep Jesus' commandments are His true disciples... the ones who don't are lying
- Now concerning those who keep Jesus' commandments, who keep His Word... the love of God is perfected, becoming complete or genuine
- Through obedience God's love is worked out practically in our lives
- I love God, I rest in His love for me and as a result I obey God because I love Him and His love is more clearly seen in the way I live

1 John 2:7–8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. <sup>8</sup> Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

- What old commandment is John writing about?
- The command to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and the command to love your neighbor as yourself

***Vs. 4 what is the new commandment?***

John 13:34–35 (NKJV)

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- This commandment was true in Jesus and it's true in every believer who has newly passed from darkness into the true light

1 John 2:9–11 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

- John is writing to believers and again, this isn't a standard of conduct to live up to, this is a litmus test to determine who is truly a brother and who is not

- You're fellowshiping with God, you're in the light and yet you hate or you dislike your brother intensely
- John says, you're still in darkness, you walk in darkness and you don't know where you're going because you are blinded by darkness
- Not only that, but the darkness keeps you from seeing the obstacles in your way (think... the plank that is in your own eye)
- Remember, darkness is simply the absence of light but blindness is the result of demonic spirits keeping the person from seeing daylight
- It's like a cloud that gives the appearance of darkness, but it's not dark
- So when you see someone in spiritual blindness, filled with an intense dislike for someone... ask God to bind spiritual blindness so the daylight (Jesus Himself) can be seen by the person

1 John 2:12–14 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. <sup>13</sup> I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. <sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

- John is writing to 3 different levels of maturity addressing the spiritual needs of each level
- First little children, spiritual newborns, then fathers
- Then young men... A young adult between the ages of 20-40
- Then little children, this time speaking of a school aged child
- Then Father's again and finally young adults again with more added
- When you look at this developmentally... it's interesting
- Spiritual newborns need to know when they make a mess, they're forgiven
- Those who struggle with knowing they are loved and forgiven are spiritual newborns, immature in their faith
- School aged kids are old enough to know God and should be taught
- Young adults are old enough to be taught the Word of God and need to learn how to do spiritual warfare, to overcome the wicked one
- Fathers need to be looked to for their knowledge of Jesus

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- When John says do not love the world or the things of the world he's not talking about loving Yosemite or Yellowstone
- He's talking about the world system that is under Satan's control
- Paul referred to Satan as the god of this world
- Don't be caught up in the world system, characterized by 3 principles
- The lust of the flesh – living to satisfy my desire to feel good
- The lust of the eyes – living to satisfy my desire for whatever I see
- The pride of life – living to satisfy my need for accomplishment and position in life
- John makes an incredible observation... the world is passing away and thus anything you gain in the world living after your lusts will pass away
- Satan offers immediate fulfillment... but it doesn't last
- Live the good life, get as much as you can, be as successful as you can possibly be... but in the end it leads to misery and destruction
- As the saying goes... He who dies with the most toys, still dies
- It's all temporary... the only thing that has eternal value is living according to God's will...

1 John 2:18–19 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

- Peter says we're at the end of the age, John says it's the last hour
- As I've said before... it's like seeing the light at the end of the tunnel
- You know it's coming, but it's not here yet
- The sign that we're in the last hour is the increase of those who are anti-Christ, anti-Messiah, anti-Jesus, against God and His work

- It's interesting that in John's day, which was during the time of Jesus, there were those who were leaving the faith
- John says they were never of us... if they were they would have never departed from the faith

1 John 2:20–21 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. <sup>21</sup> I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

- John says you have an anointing (a charisma) from the Holy One and you know intuitively by the Holy Spirit what is truly of God
- John is not telling them something they don't know, but affirming what they do know... if there is any lie in it at all, it's not truth

1 John 2:22–23 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

- The word deny literally means to say NO
- What does it mean when you deny Jesus is Messiah?
- It is to say NO to Jesus' power to save
- To deny the Father and the Son is to say NO to God
- To deny Jesus, but still to claim to believe in God is to say NO to God
- But if you acknowledge Jesus is God, you also acknowledge God

1 John 2:24–25 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

- In vs. 22-23 John gives clear criteria for what it means to say NO to God
- Therefore, let that abide in you... remain in a place of saying YES to God

- Say YES to Jesus' power to save
- Say YES to the Father and the Son
- Those who do rest in, abide in this perpetual state of YES to the Son and the Father and are recipients of the promise of eternal life

1 John 2:26–27 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to deceive* you. <sup>27</sup> But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

- Again, this same Charisma from the Holy Spirit by which you intuitively know what is of God and what is not of God, is the same Charisma that teaches you what is true
- The Holy Spirit doesn't lead you into lies, it leads you to abide in Jesus, to rest in Jesus, to live in Jesus

1 John 2:28–29 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

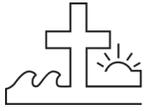
- John says abide in Him... it means to remain or to spend the night, to rest
- If we remain or rest in Jesus, when He appears we will have confidence
- We won't be caught doing things that bring shame on us
- There are those who like to live life on the edge
- How far can I go before I cross the line? What can I get away with?
- Can a Christian watch certain movies, go to certain concerts, go to certain parties or indulge in certain things
- I don't want to live life on the edge... I want to abide in Jesus
- I don't want to be watching something or listening to something or playing some drinking game like Judge Kavanaugh when Jesus returns
- Everyone scrambles... hide the beer... Jesus is here
- People will say, I went to church and really met the Lord!

- That's awesome, but He's going home with you and He's going to be an unseen guest in everything you do
- John's goal isn't to instill godly fear in us, John is merely helping us to understand because Jesus is righteous, His followers are righteous and live righteous lives

1 John 3:1–3 (NKJV)

**3** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- The division in chapters were added by the translators
- But John's thought continues into Chapter 3 on the coming of the Lord
- John says... Behold what manner of love that Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God!
- Understand the kind of love the Father has granted us... to call us children of God!
- I would encourage you to get away and just ponder this incredible love that God has shown us to call us His children, His infants
- Infants depend entirely on parents to care for them
- We depend entirely on God to care for us
- Thus, the world will never understand us... that's why it's so sad to see Christians go to the world for counseling and advice because the world will never understand you because the world doesn't understand God
- Vs. 2 is a key verse for the generation who suffers from identity theft
- Those who want to know who they are... John says, we are the children of God, but it hasn't been revealed what we shall be
- We won't know our full potential until we see Jesus
- But we know when we see Jesus, we will be like Him... speaking of His second coming and everyone who has this hope purifies Himself
- The coming of Jesus has a purifying effect on our lives
- But our true identity, who we really are is only revealed in Jesus



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## VANTAGE POINT: 1, 2 & 3 JOHN