

Virtual Study of I John – 1 John 1:1-10  
 Bellevue Church of Christ – Summer / Fall 2020

Gen 1:1; John 1:1

Study Guide #2

Who is meant by "we?"

Series of five neuter relative descriptive clauses (1,3)

<sup>(1)</sup>That which was from the **beginning**, <sup>(2)</sup>which we have heard, <sup>(3)</sup>which we have seen with our eyes, <sup>(4)</sup>which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the **word** of life—

Direct refutation of early Gnostic teaching

Identifies what is being described - John 1:1-4

λόγος - logos

John 1:14  
 Parenthetical expression

<sup>(2)</sup>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 final three statements in verse 1 were possible

<sup>(5)</sup>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.

Purpose in writing the epistle

Verses 1-4 represent a single periodic sentence in Greek

**Fellowship =**  
 Κοινωνία - koinonia:  
 lit. partnership

<sup>(4)</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>(5)</sup>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.

**Fellowship =**  
 Κοινωνία - koinonia:  
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<sup>(6)</sup>If we say we have **fellowship** with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Tense in the original Greek indicates continual action -Romans 5:1

<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 his Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

Continued refutation of early Gnostic teaching

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

<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 we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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**Questions for Discussion**

To what time does the phrase “from the beginning” refer? (v. 1)

Who is the “we” of verse one? (v. 1)

What are the reasons why John says they had “heard...seen,...touched” Christ? (v. 1)

What does the phrase “the life was manifested” mean? (v. 2)

What is John’s stated purpose in writing this epistle? What is the main subject and verb of the first four verses? (v. 3)

What does it mean that “God is light?” What is this describing? What is John’s point in making this statement? (v. 5)

What is the definition of “fellowship?” What is practical meaning in our “horizontal” and “vertical” relationships? (v. 3, 6-7) [Gr. Koinonia, SR #2842]

What is required to have fellowship with God? What is the significance “fellowship with us” preceding “fellowship...with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ” in verse three? (vv. 3, 6-7, 9; Rom 5:1)

What is the condition given for receiving God’s forgiveness? (v. 9)

What is the condition of those who say they have no sin? Why? (vv. 6, 8, 10)

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**Study Notes and References**

<b>Gospel of John – Chapter 1</b>	<b>The Epistle of 1 John – Chapter 1</b>
“In the beginning was the Word...” (v. 1)	“That which was from the beginning...” (v. 1)
“...the Word was with God” (v. 1)	“...which was with the Father” (v. 2)
“In Him was life...” (v. 4)	“...the word of life” (v. 1)
“And the Word became flesh...” (v. 14)	“that life was made manifest...” (v. 2)
“...we have seen His glory” (v. 14)	“...we have heard...seen...touched” (v. 1)

**Genesis 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**John 1:1–18 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

**Romans 5:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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**3126** κοινωνία (*koinōnia*), ας (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 2842; TDNT 3.797—**1.** LN 34.5 **fellowship**, close mutual association (1Jn 1:3; 1Co 1:9); **2.** LN 57.98 **share**, participation (2Co 8:4); **3.** LN 57.101 **willing contribution**, gift (Ro 15:26+)<sup>1</sup>

**2842.** κοινωνία *koinōnia*; from 2844; *fellowship*:—contribution(2), fellowship(12), participation(2), sharing(3).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). [\*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)\*](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas, R. L. (1998). [\*New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition.\*](#) Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.