

Life with Father

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 1:1-4.

B. The ministries of John, Peter and Paul are characterized by their calling.

1. When John was found, he was found mending his nets—John was a mender.
2. There was a need for calling people back to the foundations, and this was John's ministry.

C. Four great reasons John writes.

1. For the joy of companionship. This addresses loneliness.
2. For the problem of guilt and the need to be free from it.
3. For security and assurance—freedom from failure.

II. A relationship.

A. John is talking about a person from the beginning.

B. There are three beginnings in the Bible.

1. The beginning of material.
2. The timeless beginning.
3. The contemporary beginning—the continuous beginning of knowing Jesus Christ.
 - a. It is the eternal now.
 - b. We must always find that which relates to this beginning.

C. A Christian is one who comes into sharing with God by a person—Jesus.

D. The opponents of Christianity try to undermine the facts of Christianity—the historicity of Jesus presented by John here.

III. A fellowship.

A. Eternal life was made manifest in the life of Jesus.

B. Jesus only says what the Father says through Him.

C. When you are confident in God you can accomplish far more than you can see.

D. Jesus demonstrated what it means to walk in total dependence upon the Father.

E. The result of the family life:

1. Fellowship.

a. This means to have something in common.

b. Our fellowship with God must be straightened out before our fellowship with man can be right.

2. Companionship.

a. Communion is partnership.

b. The great secret of fellowship is taking what is not available to us in depending upon God.

c. Friendship and partnership together spells fellowship.

d. You can only have the fellowship when you are related properly to the Son.

IV. A joy that follows.

A. Joy is excitement.

B. Life was intended to be filled with joy.

Application questions:

1. How is living the Christian life a continual beginning?

2. Describe fellowship from the speaker's perspective. What are the necessary elements?

3. Describe what it has been like to have fellowship with Jesus from your own perspective. How does this compare to the Bible's description of the same? Explain.
