

## SERMON OUTLINE

<b>SERMON TITLE:</b>	The Sweetest Fellowship This Side of Heaven
<b>SERMON REFERENCE:</b>	1 John 1:1-4
<b>LWF SERMON NUMBER:</b>	#2099

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The theme of 1 John is fellowship.
- b) John wrote five books of the Bible:
  - i) The Gospel of John
    - (1) The purpose of this book is to lead us to faith in Christ.
  - ii) Revelation
    - (1) The purpose of this book is to comfort saints, to help us understand the days in which we're living, and to give us a hope for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus.
  - iii) The epistles of 1 John, 2 John and 3 John
    - (1) These were written to confirm saints.
    - (2) The theme for 1 John are the words "know," "fellowship" and "life."
- c) 1 John 1:1-4
  - i) This fellowship comes through the life that we have with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d) People can exist and not have life.
  - i) 1 Timothy 5:6
    - (1) This speaks of an unsaved woman.
  - ii) John 10:10
    - (1) In this passage, Jesus was speaking to people whose hearts were beating, but He said that they did not have life.
      - (a) They had an existence.
      - (b) They did not have life that is full and free in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) Man is a spirit; and being spiritual, we need not just existence but life through the Spirit in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- f) Many people today are living life backward.
  - i) Rather than glorious, their lives are evil because they do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.
- g) In order to experience and enjoy this life that is full and free, the Apostle John shows us three specific things found in our Scripture today.

2) A FACT ESTABLISHED (1 JOHN 1:1)

- a) The devil always wants to distort and deny truth.
  - i) The greatest truth is the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ii) The devil has been trying to confuse people as to who the Lord Jesus is, was and always will be.
- b) In John's day, there was a false cult known as the Gnostics.
  - i) The Greek word "gnosis" means "to know."
  - ii) Gnostics felt that they had superior knowledge.
  - iii) They believed that anything physical or material was evil, so they believed that the true Messiah could not have had a material, physical body.
    - (1) They believed that the Jesus who was here on Earth was sort of a phantom and not real.

- c) John is going to show that Jesus Christ literally, physically, bodily walked here on this Earth, and he said that he was an eyewitness to that.
- d) There are still false cults today, and almost every false cult is wrong primarily about Jesus Christ.
  - i) If they are wrong about Jesus, it doesn't matter what they're right about.
  - ii) Jesus is God in human flesh.
    - (1) Jesus is co-equal and co-eternal with Almighty God.
  - iii) 2 John 1:10
  - iv) 2 John 1:9
    - (1) If a person is wrong about Jesus, then he doesn't know God.
      - (a) John 14:6
- e) Jesus is an eternal fact.
  - i) 1 John 1:1
    - (1) He is the Christ of the eternities.
  - ii) John 1:1
    - (1) Before anything began, Jesus was there.
    - (2) "The Word" is God's name for Jesus.
      - (a) Revelation 19:13
        - (i) Jesus is called in this verse the "Word of God."
      - (b) 1 John 1:1
        - (i) Jesus is called the "Word of life."
  - iii) A "word" is the expression of an invisible thought or an idea.
    - (1) Jesus is the visible expression of the invisible God.
  - iv) Jesus is God's first word.
    - (1) He was there in the beginning.
    - (2) John 1:1
  - v) Jesus is God's full word.
    - (1) Revelation 1:8
      - (a) Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.
      - (b) Jesus is God's alphabet; anything that God is going to say, He's going to say through Jesus and by Jesus.
  - vi) Jesus is God's final word.
    - (1) Hebrews 1:2
    - (2) When we've said "Jesus," we've said it all.
      - (a) You can't say anymore and don't need to say anymore.
    - (3) All of the revelation of God is wrapped up in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- f) Jesus is a physical fact.
  - i) 1 John 1:1
  - ii) There was audible evidence.
    - (1) John said that they heard Him.
  - iii) There was visible evidence.
    - (1) John said that they saw Him.
    - (2) 1 John 1:1

- (a) The word used for “looked upon” in this passage is the word we get our word “theater” from, which means “to look carefully.”
  - (i) John was with Jesus for three years, and he watched Jesus.
- iv) There was physical evidence.
  - (1) 1 John 1:1
    - (a) John said that they touched Jesus.
  - (2) Jesus Christ was in human form.
    - (a) He was born of a virgin, and He was as much a man as if He were not God at all.
  - (3) It is as much a heresy to deny the humanity of Jesus as it is to deny the deity of Jesus.
    - (a) He was God.
    - (b) He wasn’t half God and half man.
    - (c) He wasn’t all God and no man.
    - (d) He wasn’t all man and no God.
    - (e) He was the God-man.
  - (4) If you deny the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, then you deny Christianity.
    - (a) Apart from His humanity, we could not be saved.
      - (i) He became a man to die on the cross.
      - (ii) Apart from the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins.
    - (b) Apart from His humanity, we have no example.
      - (i) We cannot follow as an example the God in the glory because we’re human.
      - (ii) But we can walk as Jesus walked.
        - 1. Every miracle Jesus did, He did not as God would do, but as man filled with the Holy Spirit would do the miracle.
        - 2. All of the life that He lived, He lived as a man; and He depended upon the same power we can depend upon.
      - (iii) He’s our Redeemer, example, comforter and friend because He’s a man.
    - (c) Hebrews 4:15
- g) Jesus is a spiritual fact.
  - i) 1 John 1:1-2
    - (1) John states that he tells us what he saw so that we can believe.
  - ii) Jesus is not here now in a physical body, but the Holy Spirit of God reveals Him to us.
    - (1) As John heard Him, faith now becomes the ear of the soul.
    - (2) As John saw Him, faith now becomes the eye of the soul.
    - (3) As John felt Him, faith now becomes the hand of the soul.
  - iii) We can know the Lord Jesus through the Spirit.
    - (1) 1 John 5:9
      - (a) God sends the Holy Spirit to testify to the words of the apostles, and we have the words of the apostles.

- (b) We are not dependent upon oratory, illustration or logic to convince someone.
    - (i) The Holy Spirit of God is here to testify that what John said is true.
      - 1. That is the witness of God.
  - iv) The Holy Spirit of God testifies unto the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3) A FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCED (1 JOHN 1:2-3)
- a) John wants to share it.
  - b) Anyone who sees it, hears it and knows it wants to share it.
    - i) This is why we're called witnesses and not lawyers.
      - (1) A lawyer argues a case; a witness tells what he has seen and heard.
      - ii) The only person who can't witness is the person who hasn't seen or heard anything.
  - c) What is fellowship?
    - i) It is not coffee and donuts.
    - ii) 1 John 1:3
      - (1) The word "fellowship" is the Greek word "koinonia," which means "to hold things in common."
  - d) Because of the established fact of Jesus, there is fellowship that is experienced.
    - i) We can have fellowship with one another.
    - ii) We have fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.
      - (1) We have nothing in common with the Father.
        - (a) He is holy; we are unholy.
      - (2) 1 John 1:5-6
        - (a) There is a great chasm between us and Almighty God.
        - (b) God sent the Lord Jesus to take something that is common between us: human flesh.
      - (3) Jesus became a man and never discarded His deity.
      - (4) Jesus took on the nature of man that we might take on the nature of God.
        - (a) 2 Peter 1:4
          - (i) The word "partakers" here is the same word that is translated "fellowship" in 1 John 1:3.
    - iii) We have fellowship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - iv) Not only do we have fellowship with God, but we have fellowship with one another.
      - (1) When we are born of God, we share the same nature; and the Jesus in me will love the Jesus in you.
      - (2) We are born from the same womb: the womb of grace.
      - (3) Philippians 1:5
      - (4) Philippians 2:1
  - e) The Bible teaches that a Christian is not to marry an unsaved person.

- i) 2 Corinthians 6:14
  - ii) A twice-born person is a child of God; a once-born person is a child of Satan.
  - iii) There is no fellowship and no common life.
    - (1) The Christian wants to go to church on Sunday, but the unsaved person wants to sleep in on Sunday.
    - (2) The Christian wants to give, but the unsaved person doesn't want to give.
    - (3) The Christian wants to make Sunday a holy day, but the unsaved person wants to make it a holiday.
    - (4) Christians want to pray when a crisis comes, but a pagan ridicules prayer.
    - (5) The Christian wants their children to be taught the things of God, but the unsaved person doesn't care.
    - (6) Before long, the Christian spouse will begin acting like the unsaved spouse rather than the unsaved spouse acting like the Christian.
      - (a) This creates division in the home.
  - iv) Ecclesiastes 4:12
  - v) Never marry a person in order to reform them.
  - vi) Never date a person whom you would not marry.
  - vii) When we have the nature of God in us and we are born of the Spirit and partakers of the divine nature, then we are to seek out for a life partner someone who also has the same koinonia, that same fellowship with the Father and, therefore, with us.
  - f) What holds our churches together is Jesus.
    - i) The Jesus in me will love the Jesus in you.
    - ii) When we love Jesus, we are going to love one another.
- 4) A FULLNESS ENJOYED (1 JOHN 1:4)
- a) There is no joy like the joy of knowing one another in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - b) Everyone wants joy.
    - i) John said that he wrote this book that we might have joy.
      - (1) 1 John 1:4
    - ii) We can look all over for joy, but we won't find joy until we find it in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - c) Joy is the byproduct of fellowship with God and fellowship with the family of Christ.
    - i) Psalm 16:11
  - d) Sin promises joy, but it never delivers it.
  - e) Today, we have more entertainment, amusements, restaurants, etc.; yet, there is more loneliness, depression, alcoholism, drugs, divorce and suicide than ever before.
    - i) True joy is only found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - f) Joy and happiness are not the same thing.

- i) Happiness depends upon what happens.
- ii) Joy depends upon the Lord.
- iii) Philippians 4:4
- iv) If you live for happiness, then you're a prisoner of circumstances.
  - (1) If circumstances change, then you're no longer happy.
  - (2) Jesus never changes.
- v) Happiness is cosmetic; it is on the outside.
- vi) Joy is character; it is on the inside.
- vii) Happiness only meets your surface needs, but joy meets your deepest needs.
  - (1) Happiness is like a thermometer that registers conditions.
  - (2) Joy is the thermostat that controls the conditions.
- viii) Happiness evaporates in a crisis; joy often intensifies in a crisis.
- ix) Happiness is at its fullest when it is mingled with joy; when you know the joy of the Lord.
- g) In the life of the believer, there is a fullness of joy.
- h) 1 Peter 1:8

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) Jesus is the Word of God.
  - i) He is speaking today because He loves you.
  - ii) He is the Word of life.
    - (1) It is the life that you need.
- b) 1 John 1:4
  - i) The Apostle John wrote these things that we might have fullness of joy.
  - ii) To know God and to know our brothers and sisters in Christ is fullness of joy.
- c) Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16