

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	The Sweetest Fellowship This Side of Heaven
SERMON REFERENCE:	1 John 1:1-4
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#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) 1 John 1:1
 - i) The devil always wants to distort and deny truth.
 - (1) The greatest truth is the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) The devil has been trying to confuse people as to who the Lord Jesus is, was and always will be.
 - ii) In John's day, there was a false cult known as the Gnostics.
 - (1) The Greek word "gnosis" means "to know."
 - (2) Gnostics felt that they had superior knowledge.
 - (3) They believed that anything physical or material was evil, so they believed that the true Messiah could not have had a material, physical body.

- (a) They believed that the Jesus who was here on Earth was sort of a phantom and not real.
 - iii) 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.
- b) 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
- c) 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.
- d) 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) 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 we deny the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we’re denying 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 that He did, He did not as God would do, but He did the miracle 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 that we can depend upon.
 - (iii) He’s our Redeemer because He’s a man.
 - (iv) He’s our example because He’s a man.
 - (v) He’s our comforter because He’s a man.
 - (c) Hebrews 4:15
- e) Jesus is a spiritual fact.
 - i) 1 John 1:1-2
 - (1) The Apostle John states that he tells us what he saw so that we can believe.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus is not here now in a physical body, but the Holy Spirit of God reveals Him.
 - (1) As the Apostle John heard Him, faith now becomes the ear of the soul.
 - (2) As the Apostle John saw Him, faith now becomes the eye 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) 1 John 1:2-3
 - i) John wants to share it.
 - ii) Anyone who sees it, hears it and knows it wants to share it.
 - (1) This is why we're called witnesses and not lawyers.
 - (a) A lawyer argues a case; a witness tells what he has seen and heard.
 - (2) The only person who can't witness is the person who hasn't seen or heard anything.
 - b) 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."
 - c) 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 Christ 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.
 - d) Not only do we have fellowship with God, but we have fellowship with one another.
 - i) When we are born of God, we share the same nature; and the Jesus in me will love the Jesus in you.

- ii) Philippians 1:5
 - iii) 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, and a person who is not twice-born 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 saved person wants to give, but the unsaved person doesn't want to give.
 - (3) The saved person 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) At some point the Christian spouse will begin acting like the unsaved spouse rather than the unsaved spouse acting like the Christian.
 - iv) Ecclesiastes 4:12
 - v) We should never marry a person in order to reform them.
 - vi) Don't ever 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) 1 John 1:4
 - b) There is no joy like the joy of knowing one another in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c) 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.
 - d) Joy is the byproduct of fellowship with God and fellowship with the family of Christ.
 - i) Psalm 16:11
 - e) Sin promises joy, but it never delivers it.

- f) 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.
- g) 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) But Jesus never changes.
 - v) Happiness is cosmetic.
 - (1) It's on the outside.
 - vi) Joy is character.
 - (1) It's 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; but 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.
- h) In the life of the believer, there is a fullness of joy.
- i) 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