

Fellowship
1John 1:1-2:2
April 7, 2024

How is it that people are going to get on the same page? There has to be interaction and focus on what is important to the relationship. John is writing to those who are trying to come together on the Messiah, Christ, who has come and has risen from the dead and has ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

If you are going to get people on the same page, everyone has to have the same information so that they can deal with questions they may have and they can have the same information in order to be able to deal with questions that may come up or as relationship moves forward it can be strengthened and the fellowship with each other and with God can be established based on what has been given in Jesus Christ.

John points out that it wasn't just with him but with others. He tells of how it was not just what they had heard but what they had seen with their own eyes. Even though those he is writing to most likely hadn't seen Jesus in the flesh, he was assuring them with eye witness testimony that what He is writing to them is true.

If you are in a court of law, how important is it to have eye witness testimony? We learn from the Bible that in order to convict someone of a wrong there had to be at least two witnesses. We are reminded of those who were trying Jesus who had a hard time getting witnesses to get on the same page as to what Jesus had done which lead to Pilate proclaiming that he found nothing in Jesus to warrant punishment, especially the punishment of crucifixion.

John was an eye witness. He could be called upon for those little side issues about all that happened. I know we only have so much of what went on with Jesus. John wrote in the 20th chapter of his gospel, *30-31 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

John as was said was an eye witness which was needed if he was to have the most credibility with the readers. Once that credibility was established then he could approach the issue that would most likely cause the most dissension with others, especially the Jews. He would, by the power of the Holy Spirit, be able to lay out that all

those temporary sacrifices in the past were not to be summed up in the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, who sacrificed Himself, shed His blood, His life giving blood for all.

It is that truth that we look to. He is the one who paid for all sin, past present and future. Everyone's sin and punishment for it has been paid for by Jesus and what He did on that cross.

When you ask someone if they are a good person, what is more than likely going to be their response, especially if they are a non Christian or a nominal Christian. They say they are a good person. They will talk about being, essentially "good" enough for God. They don't understand what Matthew wrote in his 5th chapter *47-48 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

The standard is perfection. Everyone will agree they haven't been perfect so if they aren't perfect then they need some other way out of their imperfect position. It can only be had through the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world.

In the text for today we have those verses that we proclaim weekly as we confess our sins to God our Father. There is the whole denial of sins and the confessing of sins that are recognized and even those we may not remember as we know we can't remember them all. It is when there is that denial, that things get a little more serious in a way. Yes when we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive our sins but to deny that we have sinned, what are you saying to Jesus?

He went to the cross for all sin. There is not one sin He did not pay the price for. For a person to not recognize that, is really a slap in the face of Jesus. John writes that it make Him out to be a liar, as if what He did, wasn't enough. Not only does this make Him out to be a liar but it is a deception, not of others but of ourselves.

It can be so easy to think that we are doing OK. We aren't necessarily overt in our sin but then when we get to reading the Word, we see how we fit into the sinner category. Yes, we may not seem much in the commit category as we are in the category of the sin of not engaging as we should, letting things pass us by when we could have done something, even if it may not have been that much.

John sees it as the difference between light and darkness. Light can be seen but darkness hides, hides the very sin that needs to be exposed so that Christ's healing can fix what that sin has disrupted in a person's life.

It is that focus on Christ and what He has and continues to do that will bring about the fellowship with have with each other and with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. We are looking forward to that fellowship, based on what Christ has done and continues to do. We think of fellowship and we can have that when we are in agreement on the fact that we are all sinners and are in need of the forgiveness Christ came to bring for all sin and we are in no way responsible for our forgiveness.

In the ministerial association of Alamogordo there are all sorts of churches involved. There seems to be a focus on unity as there is the desire to have an outward unity to be a sign to the community that the churches are working together to bring Christ to Alamogordo.

There is the look to unity but without the unity we have in the teachings of people like the Apostle John, we may not be focusing on the most important aspect of Christianity and the unity we have in doctrine that continues to separate different denominations.

Yes, there are things we can do in fellowship that aids our community but ultimately, it would be good to discuss those things that keep us apart in one way or another.

The text for today is looking to those who are wanting to be in the same camp as John or maybe John is wanting them to be in the same camp as Jesus. John knows what he know about Jesus and what went on those three years or so that he traveled around with Jesus.

He would want what we all want and that is to have others trust in Jesus and seek fellowship with other Christians such as John. Not only would John like that but Jesus Himself would too.

It is all based on what Jesus did. He lived His years of life, sinless. He was the one who was to come from the woman prophesied in Genesis 3:15 that was to come to make things right again with God.

Because Jesus had come, John wanted to make plain that He had come and that what He had done was to bring people together in fellowship with each other based on

what He had done. It seems that those he was writing to must have had some doubts about what Christ came to do and did.

As was mentioned John wanted to dispel any thoughts they might have had that Jesus was real and what He came to do was to bring salvation to all. In order to do that, the Holy Spirit would need to change hearts and John in his witness, in his letter was seeking to address some of their doubts about the whole thing.

He wants them to know the truth. He explains how the truth and the practicing of that truth is how believers go about their lives and their witness.

For unbelievers, even if they won't accept it, want to know the truth. Who wouldn't? John wrote in the 8th chapter of the Gospel by his name: *31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

You too would want to know the truth. That is why you come here and do as the Bereans did as Luke wrote in Acts 17:31 *Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

John wrote this text to be an encouragement to them to not sin but as he writes, we have and advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins and theirs and the sins of the whole world. It was Jesus work on that cross that appeased God's wrath as He carried the wrath that should have been ours and has given us eternal life in exchange.

We long for the day when we will be in fellowship with those who have gone on before us but in the meantime we have the opportunity to grow in fellowship with others who trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and of their salvation