

## The Book of 1 John

This epistle is outlined with the word "fellowship" in mind.

### I. THE SOURCE OF THIS FELLOWSHIP.

- A. The incarnation of Jesus Christ (1 Jn. 1:1-2; 3:5, 8).
- B. The atonement of Jesus Christ (2:2; 3:16; 4:9-10, 14).

### II. THE PURPOSE OF THIS FELLOWSHIP.

- A. That we might know more about the Father.
  - 1. He is light (1:5).
  - 2. He is righteous (3:7).
  - 3. He is omniscient (3:20).
  - 4. He is love (4:8, 16).
  - 5. He is invisible (4:12).
  - 6. He is life (5:11-12).
- B. That we might love the Father and understand his love (3:16; 4:19).
- C. That we might allow the Father's love to be perfected in us (2:5; 4:12).
- D. That we might love the family of God (3:11, 23; 4:7, 11).
- E. That we might experience the fullness of joy (1:4).
- F. That we might receive assurance.
  - 1. Concerning our salvation (5:13).
  - 2. Concerning our prayers (3:22; 5:14-15).

### III. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS FELLOWSHIP.

- A. Walk in the light (1:7).
- B. Recognize our sin (1:8).
- C. Confess our sin (1:9).
- D. Keep his commandments (2:3-8; 5:2-3).
  - 1. The old commandment (2:7): Love others as you love yourself (Lev. 19:34; Deut. 10:19).
  - 2. The new commandment: Love others as Christ loves you (2:8).
- E. Abide in Christ (2:28).
- F. Keep unspotted from the world (2:3; 5:21).
- G. Help our brother in need (3:17).

### IV. THE TESTS OF THIS FELLOWSHIP.

- A. Do I conduct my life down here in view of the rapture? (3:3).
- B. Do I continually dwell in sin? (2:29).
- C. Do I hate my spiritual brother? (4:20).
- D. Do I desire to help my brother? (3:17).
- E. Do I really love my brother? (2:10).
- F. Do I really love God? (5:2).
- G. Do I enjoy a rapport with other servants of God? (4:6).
- H. Am I plagued with constant fear? (4:18).
- I. Can I recognize false doctrine when it comes my way? (4:1-3).
- J. Am I straight on the deity of Christ? (2:23).
- K. Am I straight on the work of Christ? (3:5, 8).
- L. Do I have the witness of the Spirit? (3:24).

### V. THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS FELLOWSHIP.

- A. Accomplished through the occupation of the Son of God.
  - 1. He serves as our advocate (2:1).
  - 2. He serves as our propitiation (2:2).
- B. Accomplished through the habitation of the Spirit of God (2:20, 27).
- C. Accomplished through the cooperation of the saints of God (1:8-9).

### VI. THE FAMILY MEMBERS IN THIS FELLOWSHIP (3:1).

- A. Little children (new converts) (2:12-13).
- B. Young men (those saved for awhile) (2:13-14).
- C. Fathers (those mature in the faith) (2:13-14).

### VII. THE ENEMIES OF THIS FELLOWSHIP (2:15; 5:19).

- A. The evil systems in this world.
  - 1. The divisions (2:16).
    - a. The lust of the flesh.
    - b. The lust of the eyes.
    - c. The pride of life.
  - 2. The destruction (2:17).
- B. The evil seducers in this world (2:26).
  - 1. Their appearance (2:18).
  - 2. Their apostasy (2:19).
- C. The evil spirits.
  - 1. The fruit of these spirits (2:22).
  - 2. The root of these spirits (4:1-3).

VIII. THE WITNESSES TO THIS FELLOWSHIP (5:6-8).

- A. The witnesses in heaven (5:7).
- B. The witnesses on earth (5:8).

IX. THE SEPARATION FROM THIS FELLOWSHIP (5:16-17).

X. THE ENCOURAGEMENTS OF THIS FELLOWSHIP.

- A. The promise of eternal life (2:25).
- B. Confidence at the rapture (2:28).
- C. The promise of a new body (3:2).
- D. Boldness at the judgment (4:17).
- E. A life without fear (3:19, 21; 4:18).