

Eternal Life in a Flesh-and-Blood Body

John makes it clear that his purpose in writing is to give true believers assurance that they have eternal life (1 Jn 5:13). When you know that you have eternal life there is a freedom and a type of confidence in your walk with God. Since John wants those who believe in Jesus to know that they have eternal life, we should read this letter asking God to give us such assurance. In the passage we are looking at today (1 John 1:1-4) John discusses the credibility of the message as well as the fruit of the message about Jesus, which is relevant to John's purpose of communicating assurance.

Read 1 John 1:1-4

1. What strikes you from this passage? What impression does it make on you?
2. What is it that John and his coworkers actually proclaimed?
3. What reasons does John give for why the message that they proclaimed about Jesus should be believed? In other words, why is it credible?
4. What does John say is the intended fruit of their message (vv. 3-4)?
5. What does John say about fellowship?

6. How is fellowship with the Father related to our fellowship with other believers?

Regarding verse 4, Steve said:

If you love what God loves and you want what God wants, you will have joy when you see others experiencing God and doing what pleases Him. There is nothing selfish about wanting more joy. John is simply expressing how satisfying it would be if they believe the message about Jesus and walk in truth (along with them). John made similar statements in 2 John and 3 John. In 3 John 4 he wrote, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." . . . Can you imagine having such deep, substantive fellowship with others that **you** experience joy when **they** are walking with God? This type of joy is the byproduct of loving others deeply. Love and joy rise and fall together. If you don't love others deeply you can't experience the type of joy John is writing about. But if you do love others deeply there's the potential for experiencing this type of joy.

7. Do you have the kind of fellowship with others in the body of Christ such that you do experience joy when they are walking with God? Explain.

8. If having joy in other believers walking with Jesus is connected to genuine love for them, what does your current experience of joy say about whether or not you are loving others deeply?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week



Daily Devotion: Spend time reading and memorizing 1 John 1:5-10.



Prayer: Prayer for others in the body of Christ is one way to deepen your joy over others and their walks with God. Make a list of people for whom you will faithfully pray. A great biblical prayer to use for them is found in Colossians 1:9-12.