

1 John Series

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Review of the Preamble

I. Review & Introduction:

Concepts/doctrine: covered so far . . .

1:1–2. “Eternal Life”—centers on intra-Trinity personal relationship—only with the Trinity can there be a truly, self-sufficient personal God; “life” cannot arise from non-life—all life forms are varying degrees of material revelations of this eternal, immaterial life within the Trinity.

It’s ONLY available to mankind through the God-man Jesus Christ (John 3:16–18)

1:3–4 “Fellowship”—common, shared quality of life; eternal life has degrees of quality varying from baby acquaintance with God at the point of salvation to advanced degrees of knowledge and experience (fruit).

1:5–10 “Light”/“Darkness”—accurate perception of God’s ethically pure nature vs. distorted view of His “tolerance” of sin

(Slide 2)

Reality (metaphysical layer) = Creator/creature reality, not the pagan impersonal universe where order spontaneously arises out of chaos and existence includes never ending suffering, pain, death affecting every part.

Knowledge (epistemic layer) = man is created as the “namer” and lord of creation under the direction of God’s revelation vs. the pagan notion that all knowledge is the subjective construction of man.

Conduct (ethical layer) = God only knows enough to speak absolute imperatives for conduct since He alone knows all the consequences of our choices for time and eternity. When people rely upon the “do-no-harm” principle independently of God’s revelation, while commendable, they don’t realize that they can’t calculate all possible harm is doing whatever is under consideration.

(Slide 3)

3 responses to the Light: **Issue:** as a believer, am I in fellowship with God??

(1) denial that fellowship with God has anything to do with our thoughts, words, and conduct

(2) need to “get real” in our self-examination and by self-conscious choice place ourselves under His Word (**Ps. 139:23–24**)

(3) after being convicted of a sin or sins, refusing to agree with God about it (**Ps. 32:1–4;**

1 Cor. 11:28–30)

2:1 “Advocate”—At God’s Throne Room there is an ethical trial going on involving God’s policies (and by implication His character, i.e., the doxological question). Jesus said to Peter (**Lk 22:31–32**)

2:2 “Propitiation”—satisfaction; We cannot provide for our own propitiation of God’s absolute holy nature of righteousness and justice.

2:3–5 “we know Him”/“we know we are in Him”—fellowship with the Son centers on how we are treating His commandments as identical to the commandments of the Father (**John 14:10**)

2:7–8 “darkness is passing away”/“true light is already shining”—true Enlightenment began not with Descarte, Hume, and Kant, but with Jesus Christ.

2:9–11 “hating a brother”/“loving a brother”—caring for a “fellow soldier” in a combat environment.

(1) why is brotherly hate a darkness? Light = God’s perfectly pure holy nature to which we must submit. God has accepted a brother in salvation knowing he has his kinds of sin, so do we join Him in that acceptance or not? If not, then we are like Cain who literally killed his brother out of his anger toward God who had accepted his brother but not him (**3:12**).

(2) why is brotherly hate a cause for stumbling? Because such a one is out of fellowship and therefore under the deceiving influence of Satan the “roaring lion who seeks whom he may devour” (**Gen. 4:5**)

II. Conclusion

The flow of John’s argument against the threat of false teachers to our quality of eternal life (**2:28**)

(Slide 4)

1:1–4	Prologue—call to sharing eternal life with God through the apostles
1:5–2:11	Preamble—daily interacting with the Triune God
	1:5–2:2 fellowship with God the Father at His Holy Integrity
	2:3–8 fellowship with God the Son at His Commandments
	2:9–11 fellowship with God the Holy Spirit at His work in believers
2:12–27	Purpose—call to resist the doomed world system and its Christ-denying teachers
	2:12–14 resistance begins with confidence in the Spirit’s work in one’s life
	2:15–17 resistance utilizes the strategic envelopment of the world system being accomplished by the Father
	2:18–27 resistance adheres to the Spirit-confirmed, once-for-all-time apostolic doctrine that renders innovation unnecessary and contradictory

Basic review of what fellowship with the Triune God looks like:
(Slide 5)

Father = unseen nature that is fundamental reality so we must self-examine ourselves with His Word and our conscience and do the right thing—acknowledge exactly our sin(s), knowing that our forgiveness is not due to special “dealings”—vows, self-inflicted punishment, etc.

Son = seen historically (1:1) and has left available special revelation in the Gospels so we must self-consciously acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ and that His words are identical with those of the Father

Holy Spirit = unseen but exerts the Triune God's influence and effects upon believers. We must honor His work and support it.