

Jesus Connects Us to God and to One Another (1 John 1:1-3)

1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1. The _____ Referenced

^{1:1} That which was being from the beginning,

a. The possible meanings of “from the beginning”

This phrase is used for many different “beginnings,” including:

- **eternity** (1 John 2:13,14; cf. John 1:1,2; Col 1:16; Heb 7:3; Rev 21:6; 22:13)
- **creation** (Mt 19:8; 24:21; Mk 10:6; 13:19; Jn 8:44; 2 Pet 3:4; 1 John 3:8; cf. Heb 1:10; Rev 3:14),
- **the start of the tribulation** (cf. Matt 24:8, Mk 13:8);
- **the start of Jesus’ ministry** (Luke 1:2; Jn 15:27; **1 Jn 2:7, 24**; 3:11; 2 Jn 1:5, 6 cf. Mk 1:1; Jn 2:11; 6:64; 8:25; 16:4; Heb 2:3).

b. The probable meaning of “from the beginning” – Jesus’ ministry start

- The verb used: The imperfect “was being” = Ongoing activity over time
- The content referenced...

2. The Eyewitness _____ Referenced

... which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we ~~have~~ looked upon, and our hands ~~have~~ handled ...

- That which we have heard** (perfect – past with present implications)
- That which we have seen** (perfect) **with our eyes** (physical saw)
- That which we gazed upon** (aorist) (viewed attentively) – what apostles did when they saw Jesus ascend; what those with Saul did when they saw the light.
- And our hands handled** (aorist) – Jesus was a physical reality, and what He did could be touched and verified.

3. The _____ Referenced

...concerning the Word of **life**...

- The word** (Jesus, as in John 1:1, or just “message”?)
- Of life** (often refers to eternal life as in quality and length)
- Which is it?** Verse 2 indicates the topic is “the message of **LIFE**”

4. _____ Is “the Life?”

² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us

- The life was manifested (revealed)**
- The life was seen (→) (same as v.1)**
- The life is being witnessed (~) – ongoing activity**
- The life is being announced (~) to you – ongoing activity**
- The life is eternal**
- The life is divine (same before the Father and manifested to us)**

5. The _____ for the Letter

³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, **that** you also may have **fellowship** with us

- That which we have seen (→ same as verse 1 & 2)**
- That which we have heard (→ same as verse 1)**
- We are announcing to you (~ same as verse 2)**
- IN ORDER THAT: You yourselves might have fellowship with us.**

6. The _____ of Fellowship

Word: *koinōnia* – close relationship

Verb: *koinōneō* – to share

Root: *koinē* – common Greek (thus having common ground)

7. The _____ of Our Fellowship

that you also may have fellowship **with US**, and truly our fellowship [is]

- **with the FATHER**
- **and with HIS SON** Jesus Christ.

TAKEWAYS

- The Epistle of 1 John draws from _____ experiences of John and the other apostles (and possibly other eyewitnesses).** These experiences include what was audibly heard, physically seen, seen closely, and physically touched.
- The Epistle of 1 John focuses on _____, _____, and _____, all which define God and come from God, and which impact us in time and eternity.**
- The Epistle of 1 John is written to help us have an _____ close spiritual relationship with each other.**
- The Epistle of 1 John is written to help us have an _____ close spiritual relationship with God the Father and with His Son Jesus.**