



# GOD'S FELLOWSHIP – LISTEN AND LIVE (22)

## START HERE:

1 John is a proclamation and declaration about Jesus, the Son of God who came as a human being. His first followers saw him with their own eyes and touched him with their own hands.

When 1 John was being written, many people believed that physical flesh-and-blood bodies were bad. Therefore (the thinking went) Jesus could never have been flesh-and-blood. Even more importantly (the logic went), people could freely use/misuse/abuse their bodies however they wanted.

Since bodies were bad (supposedly) then spirits must be good. So the more spiritual insight people had, the more God-like they were of (of course), which meant (logically) that people with the highest levels of spiritual insight were better than ordinary everyday followers of Jesus.

Imagine how tangled things were: certain people claimed they were close to God because they had special spiritual knowledge, but at the same time they used their bodies in unrestrained and disobedient ways.

"I know God, but I will do whatever I want with my body." That's like saying, "I know God, *but I will not obey him.*" It doesn't make sense.

1 John reveals how wrong those ideas are. It reassures readers that Jesus Christ did in fact come as a human being who gave up his life in order to save us. It reminds readers that those who deny the truth about Jesus Christ and who refuse to obey God do not really belong to God at all.

Life. Light. Love. Truth. Obedience. That's what this beautiful and powerful book is all about.

**READ THIS:** 1 John 1-5. As you read it, listen and watch the details. What stands out to you? Before you dive into these 5 chapters, consider reading it a different way. Read it out loud with a group of friends or listen to a recording of it on the Streetlights Bible app (NLT translation). Now, let's settle into the words of the Word of God.

## THINK ABOUT:

Here are the things I heard in 1 John:

### EXTRA THINGS

Even though 1 John is usually included in a list of epistles (the New Testament books that were written as letters to churches), it seems to be something different.

Most Bible scholars and teachers think 1 John was written as a sermon or lesson that could be carried from church to church and read aloud to the people.

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1 John doesn't move step-by-step through the main points like this:

- A
- B
- C
- D

Instead, 1 John has a few major points that it keeps cycling through, sort of like this:

- ABCD
- ABCD
- ABCD
- ABCD

### EXTRA VERSES

### EXTRA STUFF

Listen to "Jesus I Need You" [HERE](#)

**AM:** Today, focus on the love of Christ.

**PM:** Today, how did the words of 1 John impact your thoughts, actions, attitudes?

*Dear Lord, Thank you for your Word. Thank you for giving us, your children, a way to know you, to learn about you, to be with you, to hear your voice, and to experience your love. Amen.*

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