

THE MESSAGE: BEING PART OF A HOLY COMMUNITY

- LET US TAKE HIS KNOWLEDGE AND APPLY IT TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.
- IDENTIFY WHERE THERE IS A BREAK IN YOUR COMMUNITY & WORK TO FIX IT.

INTRO

SOCIETY MAY WANT US TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR IDENTITY AS INDIVIDUALS, BUT GOD WANTS US TO NOT FORGET THAT WE ALSO BELONG TO A COMMUNITY. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO MAY SHARE YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS OR YOUR SOCIAL INTERESTS, AND WHEN YOU WORK TOGETHER YOUR VOICE CANNOT BE IGNORED. IMAGINE WHAT YOU CAN GET DONE WHEN YOU WORK TOGETHER. GOD SAYS (MAT.18:20) THAT HE TAKES NOTICE WHEN 2-3 GATHER TOGETHER IN HIS NAME. AND WHEN ONE PERSON IS IN NEED, WE KNOW (ECC.4:10) THAT IT IS BEST TO HAVE ANOTHER PERSON THERE TO HELP. WE NEED EACH OTHER. JUST LIKE MOSES LOOKED TO GOD FOR HELP, THE APOSTLES LOOKED TO JESUS, AND THE CHURCH LOOKS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR STRENGTH/GUIDANCE ETC., WE TOO NEED OTHERS WHO WILL WORK TOGETHER IN THIS LIFE'S JOURNEY. THRU BOTH GOOD AND BAD TIMES. TODAY, WE'LL SEE THAT THE 2ND CENTURY BELIEVERS HAD SOME PERSONAL CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME, BUT IF THEY'D COME TOGETHER - LIVE TOGETHER, WORK TOGETHER - AND BELIEVE THEN THEY WOULD EXPERIENCE LIFE THE WAY IT IS MEANT TO BE. FULL OF JOY. GOD ON DISPLAY!

JOHN 15:5-8, 9-17

- **THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE REAL JOY IS A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD & OTHERS**
- **SACRIFICE - OBEY HIS COMMANDS - REMAIN IN HIS LOVE - PRODUCE LASTING FRUIT**

HEB. 1:1-4

- **IF JESUS IS THE PERFECT PICTURE OF GOD – HOW IS HE VISIBLE TODAY?**

KEY TEXT: I JOHN 1:1-7-10

Q: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD?

BODY

1.WE PROCLAIM TO YOU THE ONE WHO EXISTED FROM THE BEGINNING, WHOM WE HAVE HEARD AND SEEN. WE SAW HIM WITH OUR OWN EYES AND TOUCHED HIM WITH OUR OWN HANDS. HE IS THE WORD OF LIFE.

- **THE 2ND CENTURY BELIEVERS WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY ACCEPTING JESUS AS GOD**
- **JOHN MAKES IT KNOWN THAT GOD REVEALED HIMSELF IN THE PERSON OF JESUS**

2.THIS ONE WHO IS LIFE ITSELF WAS REVEALED TO US, AND WE HAVE SEEN HIM. AND NOW WE TESTIFY AND PROCLAIM TO YOU THAT HE IS THE ONE WHO IS ETERNAL LIFE. HE WAS WITH THE FATHER, AND THEN HE WAS REVEALED TO US.

- **TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS, HE OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE [JOHN 3:16,17; JOHN 14:6]**

3.WE PROCLAIM TO YOU WHAT WE OURSELVES HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN AND HEARD SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US. AND OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER AND WITH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST.

- **JOHN SAYS HE & THE OTHER APOSTLES ARE IN FELLOWSHIP W/ GOD & HIS SON JESUS**
 - **JOHN INVITES US TO JOIN HIM IN A COMMUNITY OF FELLOWSHIP/FELLOW BELIEVERS**
- FELLOWSHIP: AN ASSOCIATION OF PERSONS HAVING SIMILAR TASTES, INTERESTS, ETC.**

- **Q: WHAT DOES FELLOWSHIP WITH THE PRESENCE OF GOD LOOK LIKE?**
- **Q: WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN COMMON WITH GOD? HOW IS HIS HEART PUT ON DISPLAY IN YOU?**
- **Q: WHAT DOES FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS LOOK LIKE?**
- **Q: WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN COMMON WITH FELLOW BELIEVERS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TOGETHER?**
- **FELLOWSHIP ALLOWS LOVE TO GROW, CRUSHES FEAR, ENCOURAGES UNITY, & HELPS TO BUILD A LIFE-GIVING COMMUNITY**

4. WE ARE WRITING THESE THINGS SO THAT YOU MAY FULLY SHARE OUR JOY.

- **CHRISTIANS AREN'T ASKING OTHERS TO VALIDATE OUR STORY, BUT TO EXPERIENCE IT**
- **CHRISTIANS RECOGNIZE: IMPORTANCE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER & GOD**
- **CHRISTIANS ARE PEOPLE WANTING OTHERS TO HAVE A LIFE OF JOY THAT NEVER ENDS**

5. THIS IS THE MESSAGE WE HEARD FROM JESUS AND NOW DECLARE TO YOU: GOD IS LIGHT, AND THERE IS NO DARKNESS IN HIM AT ALL.

- **IF YOU'RE AN UNBELIEVER, ASK SOMEONE WHO IS A CHRISTIAN WHY THEY'RE JOYFUL**
- **YOU WILL OFTEN HEAR HOW THEY HIT BOTTOM & THEN HOW GOD LIFTED THEM UP**

6. SO WE ARE LYING IF WE SAY WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD BUT GO ON LIVING IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS; WE ARE NOT PRACTICING THE TRUTH.

- **FELLOWSHIP W/GOD CHANGES EVERYTHING: OUR THOUGHTS, LIFE WE LIVE/HAVE**
- **FELLOWSHIP W/GOD REQUIRES US TO GIVE EVERYTHING OF OURSELVES TO HIM**
- **FELLOWSHIP W/GOD ALLOWS US TO HAVE EVERYTHING IN COMMON WITH HIM**

7. BUT IF WE ARE LIVING IN THE LIGHT, AS GOD IS IN THE LIGHT, THEN WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS, HIS SON, CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN.

- **WE BECOME RIGHT WITH OURSELVES, ONE ANOTHER, AND GOD**
- **THE PAST IS DEFEATED AND OUR FUTURE IS DETERMINED**

END:

Q: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE IN THE LIGHT – WITH NO MORE DARKNESS?

Q: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO PRACTICE THE TRUTH – TO HAVE ALL THINGS IN COMMON?

Q: WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU HAD FELLOWSHIP - SHARED SOMETHING IN COMMON - WITH GOD, JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND OTHER BELIEVERS?

NEXT STEPS:

- **GIVE UP SOMETHING YOU HAVE SO YOU CAN HAVE SOMETHING YOU DON'T**
- **PURSUE A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD & INQUIRE HOW TO WORK WITH HIM**
- **IDENTIFY A CAUSE YOU ARE EXCITED ABOUT & INVITE SOMEONE TO BE PART OF IT**