

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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“THREE TRUTHS ABOUT REAL CHRISTIANITY”
Series #1 on the Book of 1 John

1 John 1:1-5

John began by **defending** the faith, **declaring** the faith, and **denouncing** the false. God has given His church strong consolation, great evidence, and His enduring word. Our faith is not misguided, misdirected, or un-found. God has given the church a foundation in which to build upon. Faith’s foundation is found in none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. We don’t need to apologize, be ashamed of, or try to hide the foundation of our faith. The truth is that if our faith is placed in the right foundation, we will boldly proclaim and gladly live out our faith from day to day.

John is writing to a community where there is considerable disunity. As we read the epistle, we discover that it is at least in part directed to a situation in the church to which he was writing, which had been produced by the fact that shortly before this some members had left the fellowship in an uproar (2:18-19). These disgruntled former members had taken others with them and now they were actively recruiting - trying to convince some of the faithful members who remained to come away and join them (2:26). John writes with a sense of urgency which springs from a desire to restore fellowship and joy in an otherwise divided community.

There is a **fivefold purpose** expressed in 1 John:

- (1) **Promote Fellowship - 1 John 1:3**, “... That you also may have fellowship with us [other believers]: and ... with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ;”
- (2) **Provide Joy - 1 John 1:4**, “... That your joy may be full”
- (3) **Prevent Sin - 1 John 2:1**, “... That you may not sin” (that is practice sin continually)
- (4) **Push Love for One Another 1 John 3:10, 13-15.**
- (5) **Provide Assurance - 1 John 5:11-13**, He wants you to be saved – and **KNOW** the assurance of salvation. The word “**know**” comes up at least twenty-five times in the letter of 1 John.

Christianity in its essence is not a system of thought. It is a relationship with a person – Jesus Christ. John gives us Three Real Truths About Christianity.

I. REAL CHRISTIANITY IS JESUS CHRIST REVEALED (v. 1-2)

He uses three verbs to describe his experience with Jesus.

1. **That Which We Heard.**
2. **That Which We Saw.**
3. **That Which We Touched.**

II. REAL CHRISTIANITY IS JESUS CHRIST REVEALED

There is a difference between knowing about someone and **KNOWING** them. Real Christianity is rooted in a **revelation**, but it is realized in a **relationship**. It really does not matter how much you know about Jesus if you do not know him. It is through repentance and trusting Christ that you are born into family of God. But remember there are no 2nd generations Christians! Everyone must decide! Jesus was manifested and it was for purpose: we might experience life in Him.

III. REAL CHRISTIANITY IS JESUS CHRIST PROCLAIMED (v. 5)

The Christian life is meant to be shared! Like good food or new dessert or song on the radio. Joy is derived in being able to pass on something blessed you! The Christian life is the same way, if you keep it to yourself, you are missing out on one of the true purposes for being a Christian!

Real Christianity is determined by what you believe about Jesus. “That” Jesus is revealed in the Bible, is experienced by new life from within and fellowship with God and other believers and is proclaimed with joy. Make sure you have the real deal!