

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
James M. Duncan, Pastor

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

**“THREE TRUTHS ABOUT REAL CHRISTIANITY—
Part 2”**

Series #2 on the Book of 1 John

1 John 1:1-5

In the book of 1 John, he is writing to opposing the popular heresy of **Gnosticism** in his culture and time of His writing. Gnostics believed that all matter was inherently evil. This led them to believe that Jesus did not have an actual, real, and material body. They denied the humanity of Jesus Christ. The Gnostic would say that Jesus did not live, it only seemed like He lived.

John began by **defending** the faith, **declaring** the faith, and **denouncing** the false.

◆ **THE STRUCTURE OF 1 JOHN IS THE FOLLOWING:**

God is Light (Chapter 1 and 2)

God is Love (Chapters 3 – 5:5)

God is Life (Chapter 5:6 to end)

◆ **FELLOWSHIP IS THE KEY WORD: (GREEK- KOINONIA (COY – NO – NEE – AH). FELLOWSHIP MEANS... SHARE, WILLING CONTRIBUTION**, John uses the term to describe a living bond that unites Christians together.

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 EXPERIENCED V-2

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 book 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!