

We Proclaim Eternal Life (1 John 1:1-4)

- I. Introduction: What Is “*That*”—The Subject of John’s Sentence? (**1**; Jn. 1:1, 14, 18; 1 Cor. 1:23; 2 Cor. 4:5)

- II. Who Is Jesus?
 - a. Fully God (**1-2**; Jn. 1:1-3; Acts 17:25)

 - b. Fully Man (**1**; Jn. 21:25; 20:27; Lk. 24:39)

 - c. The Word of Life (**1-2**; Jn. 10:17-18; 11:25-26; Deut. 30:6)

- III. We Proclaim Him to You! (**2-3**; Isa. 55:7; 1 Cor. 1:30)

- IV. The Results of Proclaiming Christ
 - a. Fellowship among Believers & with God (**3**; 2 Cor. 6:14; Jn. 17:3)

 - b. Fullness of Joy (**4**; Jn. 15:11)

Questions for Family Discussion

- What is the subject of John’s sentence in verses 1-3? Is it a message, a person, or both? Explain.
- What is Gnosticism? Why does John so strongly emphasize both Jesus’ true humanity and His true deity?
- What were some dangers facing the churches John addressed in this letter? What is John’s solution?
- What should be the ground or basis of true fellowship in the church of Jesus Christ? Can we have fellowship with those who do not share our faith in Christ? How will the church to be built up in fellowship—by trying to meet all the “felt needs” of the members, or by faithfully proclaiming Jesus Christ, and building up the body in Him?

What Are Sacraments? (1 Corinthians 10:1-22)

- I. What Are “Sacraments”? (Exo. 6:7; Lev. 26:12; 1 Peter 2:9)
- II. Why Do We Need Sacraments? (Ps. 103:14; Gen. 9:11, 13; 15:7; 17:11)
- III. How Do Sacraments Function? (Rom. 4:11)
1. As **Signs** (for understanding God’s gospel promise)
 2. As **Seals** (for assurance of God’s gospel promise)
- IV. Sacraments Are Not Empty, but Proclaim Christ (Acts 4:12; **1 Cor. 10:1-4, 16**; 1:20)
- V. Two Sacraments Are Sufficient & Necessary (Gen. 17:10; Num. 9:13)

Belgic Confession Art. 33: We believe that our good God, mindful of our crudeness and weakness, has ordained sacraments for us to seal his promises in us, to pledge his good will and grace toward us, and also to nourish and sustain our faith.

He has added these to the Word of the gospel to represent better to our external senses both what he enables us to understand by his Word and what he does inwardly in our hearts, confirming in us the salvation he imparts to us.

For they are visible signs and seals of something internal and invisible, by means of which God works in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. So they are not empty and hollow signs to fool and deceive us, for their truth is Jesus Christ, without whom they would be nothing.

Moreover, we are satisfied with the number of sacraments that Christ our Master has ordained for us. There are only two: the sacrament of baptism and the Holy Supper of Jesus Christ.

Questions for Family Discussion

- The word “*sacrament*” refers to something that is “*bound*” to someone or something. Why is this a suitable term for Baptism and the Lord’s Supper? How is **God** “*bound*”? How are **we** “*bound*”?
- How does God use the sacraments to **strengthen** and **sustain** our faith?
- What does a person communicate by his or her **neglect** of the sacraments?
- To what or whom do the sacraments point us as **signs**? What do they **seal**? What is a **means of grace**?