

1 John 1:3 COME and Have FELLOWSHIP With US

INTRO. We have here, the best friend Jesus ever had on earth, telling us, about the **effect** Jesus had on Him. He has already told us the very day and hour that he realised Jesus was the Messiah “*and it was about the **tenth** hour*”[J1:39]. It was the night that they **stayed** with Jesus in the house He was staying in. Jesus had seen them following Him, He turned round and asked them “*What do you want?*” and they asked Him “*Where are You staying?*” and He replied “**Come** and you will see”. So they “*spent that day with Him*”!

For a **Jew** to be **convinced** that God had a Son – a **human** Son – was almost impossible given their teaching on a **Monotheistic God** who was entirely spiritual! Jews were **unique** in believing in a single God! God having a human Son needed a lot of convincing. But John **believed it** – without much persuasion. The testimony, the witness of Christ was **so great** “*never man spake like this Man*”! There was an **authority** about Jesus! But He was also **lovely** and **understanding** of the human position – and of the human **plight!** Jesus made 'all the difference in the world' to John.

JOHN WANTS TO SHARE HIS FAITH

Now John **wants** to **share** his faith – he wants to tell us about Jesus! And the **reason** he wants to tell us, is “*so that you too may have **fellowship** with us*”[3b]. John wants **others** to **enjoy** what he was enjoying from fellowshiping with Jesus!! It's 'too good to miss'. “*these things I have spoken to you... that **your joy** may be **full**” [John 15:11]!*

John took a lot of **risks** to spread the Word about Jesus – in fact he ended up in **prison** for it – **banished** to an island! But John knows how **important** it is to get to know Jesus – **personally!** So he was prepared, as all the Apostles were, to take risks for Jesus. So he was not ashamed to “*proclaim...what we have seen*

and heard”! And he wrote “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”[J20:31] **APP** That is what the Church and the Communion is supposed to be all about!

MAN IS LONELY

John talks first of all about **fellowship** - “*fellowship with us*”! **APP** People are **lonely** – yes, even at this time of year! And God does **not want** us to be lonely. Even **before the Fall**, when man was on his own, God **recognised** man's **need of companionship**! We were **made** for **community** Fellowship (=communion)! God Himself is a community of Three! We all need friends – but we all do not **realise** that it is friends we need! A poll in USA indicated 90% of males lacked a true friend. But they won't talk about it!

One of the characteristics of Hell is **loneliness**! You can have people surrounding you and still be lonely! I was told ‘there is nothing more lonely than a bustling London Hotel’! Far more people are lonely today than you think!

Loneliness **expresses itself** in many different ways. Some people try and **hide** their loneliness – they **work** long hours! They watch TV! They read novels. They try and ‘forget’ about themselves! Some do something they enjoy in order to **hide** from their duty of doing something else!

You know **hiding** to be alone can be very **sinful**! Hiding is distinct from **solitude**. Solitude is a **choice** we make in order to think clearer or work uninterruptibly. Hiding is usually **motivated** by a sense of **shame**! Invented in the Garden of Eden! It involves **pretending** (we are not there)! It usually includes **fear** and **anxiety**! People do not hide for fun. They hide for fear. They do not want to be seen! People want to hide

their **blemishes**! We all do it! Because we all have something to hide. Deep down in the human psyche we all want to hide something from others for we are all ashamed of ourselves.

God said that it was not good for man to be alone. So He gave him a **wonderful gift** – a woman! A **help-meet!** Do you know what is the **main purpose** of companionship? To be a **help** to each other! Every time you **help** someone, you are 'aligning' with **God's purpose** for fellowship! Every time you **forgive** someone who has **hurt** you, you are 'aligning' with **God's purpose** of fellowship! Every time you **encourage** someone who feels **defeated**, you are 'aligning' with **God's purpose** of fellowship! Every time you **befriend** a lonely person, you are 'aligning' with God's purpose of fellowship!

We were originally created to be a community together – although each of us are distinct and have our own particular characteristics, we are made in God's image of community.

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD/JESUS

Now John says that the fellowship and communion he is talking about here is "*with the **Father** and His **Son** Jesus Christ*"[3c]. We need fellowship with our **Creator!** The longing that is in the human heart, is actually a longing for God. There is a 'God-shaped hole' in every heart – and only God can fill **that** hole. **We** try and fill it with **false gods** - it doesn't work! **Man's friendship** can only go 'so far'! We were made to have fellowship with God our Creator.

What we all really need, is not just the ability to converse with God but to be **forgiven!** We need **pardon**, we need **healing**, we need **love**, we need **grace!** And that is what Jesus came to do – that is why Jesus went to the Cross - that is why Jesus suffered, to take away our sin and shame - so that **we could** be forgiven! No other way could we be forgiven!

Jesus **knew** that our big problem was forgiveness. Remember

the man carried by four down thru the roof! If anyone needed **physical help**, he did! But Jesus said to him “*your sins are forgiven*” [Mar 2:5] Now what sins **could** a **paralytic commit**? Not as many as you and I – true!! But in actual fact he could commit **all the big ones**! Think of it: **Resentment! Arrogance! Jealousy! Bitterness! Slandering! Judgementalism!** He could commit all these 'without lifting a finger'! Jesus **knew** this man, as every man, needed **forgiveness!**

That is why John says here “*If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us*” [8] and in [10] “*If we say we have not sinned we make Him a liar...*”!

The reason mankind does not have fellowship with God is that **we** are **uncomfortable** in His company! We **avoid** God – don't we? We are not interested – or rather **opposed** to Him! The least **suggestion** in a conversation, and we move away! And why are we uncomfortable? Because we **have** sinned!

Well, the whole **business of the Church** and the **Sacraments** is to help **restore** our fellowship/communion with God. God **wants our** company! Do you know the **best fellowship** we can have is with God/Jesus? Do you know what is the loveliest experience you can have? It is to be **at one** with God! To be at complete **rest/peace/comfort** in His presence. **No strain!**

That is the **whole purpose** of the Church and the **Lord's Supper!** It is to bring us into fellowship/communion with God. “*these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name*” [J20:31] What John is saying is that there is nothing quite like having God as your constant companion. This is **real life**. John is telling us to **Get a life!**

Spiritual fellowship/communion is **real**. It is **not** imaginary. There is a real **God** and a real **you** and where there is a real **faith**, there is a real **understanding** and real **fellowship**.

EXPLANATION

The Lord's Supper is **for** the **Lord's** people – it is **not** for those who do **not know** the Lord. If you are not **in fellowship** with the Lord, the Lord's Supper will be meaningless to you. If you can live without prayer and **spiritual contact** and **interaction** with the Lord, the Lord's Supper is meaningless.

If you live in **open disregard** to God's commands, the Lord's Supper will do you no good. You need to **believe** - **then** come to the Supper. If you do not believe in the **work** of Jesus Christ on the Cross, what He **accomplished** on the Cross, the Lord's Supper is not going to mean much to you!

The Lord's Supper is **for** those who have been **affected** and **changed** in some degree by their knowledge of Jesus Christ. And the **more** they know of Jesus, the more they discover of Jesus, the **more** they are **drawn** to Him in love/affection!

What Jesus **did** on the Cross, who Jesus **is**, and **why** He came and **lived/died/rose/ascended**, are the most interesting events of all history! The contemplation of such events **'move'** and **'affect'** God's people in a **spiritual** way and they want to **honour** and **obey** this Person who did such things for them!

Read – **Romans: 3:21-26**
 1 Cor 6:9-11
 Gal 3:10-14

READ APOSTLE'S CREED!

Sing Psalm 73

Read – 1 Cor 11:23-26

Prayer “...set apart from a common to a holy use, such as of the bread and wine that will be used in this sacrament...”

Before the Eating – John 8:24 Jesus said to a crowd of Jews “*I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins*”!! The Truth of that is one reason why you are here at the Supper today! Many people today, just do not believe that! But you do! You knew that you had sinned! You knew that Jesus meant what He said – and you did not want to die in your sins – so you came to Him in faith. You believed all He said. And one of the things He said was “*Do this in remembrance of Me*”

After the Supper – John 17:24 “*I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am*”!! What a wonderful statement! Jesus **wants you** and all who have been given to Him, to be **with Him!**

And **why?** “*to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world*”!! No one on earth has really seen the full glory that God has given to Christ. Our sinful disposition prevents us from being able to spiritually comprehend. We need to be glorified before we can fully see that glory in all its beauty.

God loves Jesus with an exceedingly great love. That is the very same love that He has for you!

Christ’s prayer here, is that **we** believers might “**see**” the glory of Christ in the same way that His Father sees the glory of Christ!

Sing Old Psalm 72:17 to end!

NOTES