

## **Life That Is Real**

### **1 John 1:1-4**

**Introduction** - Since the beginning of time man has been searching for “*Life that is Real.*” The apostle John is found in knowing the true God and living in fellowship with Him! I John is like a family photo album. It describes those who are members of the family of God. Just as children resemble their parents, so God’s children have His likeness too. When a person becomes a child of God they receive the life of God, eternal life!

In I John we discover three important truths about God’s nature - his children

1. God is Light - 1:5, so.....Righteous
2. God is Love - 4:8, so.....Loving
3. God is Life - 5:11, so.....Eternal Life

John is painting a picture of the real child of God, true Christianity.

Ask why? What was John’s purpose in writing?

1. The apostle John is now an old man, A.D. 90.
2. He’s living in Ephesus.
3. He’s writing to the third generation Christians!
4. False Teachers, Acts. 20:29, “grievous wolves.” Called “Gnostics”- Gnosticism was probably the most dangerous heresy threatening the church during the first three centuries and it’s still with us today. The term Gnostic is derived from the Greek work “gnosis” or knowledge.

So salvation was not by “faith”, but by “by coming to know.”

This deceptive teaching was built on the erroneous philosophical premise that all material substance is evil and that nonmaterial, the spirit is good.

1. So view creation.
2. View of incarnation.
3. So Docetism, “to seem.” Corinthus, a distinction, “Jesus the Man, the Christ.”
4. So it leads to license. Doctrine leads to morals.

So I John tell us:

1. Who Jesus is.
2. What a real Christian looks like. You can put yourself to the test! Do you have “Life that is Real?”

Today in our text, three facts about the life that is real!

The Life that is Real is:

## **I. Built on The Foundation of Jesus Christ, vv. 1-2**

Life that is real is based on biblical or real view of Jesus Christ.

1. Christ is real eternally, vs. 1 “That which was from the beginning.”

Three beginnings in scripture:

Gen. 1:1 - the beginning of creation.

John 1:2 - the eternal word.

I John 1:1 - not two ideas.

2. Christ is real historically, vs. 1b.

- We “heard” - Gr. perfect tense, so “still” hearing.
- We have “seen” - “with our eyes”
- We “looked upon”
- Our hands have “handled” - “of the word of life.”
- Try to imagine what it was like! His “I am’s” and power to heal and calm the sea!

\* It’s the incarnation, vs. 2. Study it! So life that is real is built on Jesus Christ the God-man! (Do you have a Biblical view of Jesus?)

## **II. Life that is Real is Lived in Fellowship with God, vs. 3**

- Fellowship - Gr. “koinonia”
- With us and other Christians!
- With “the Father”
- With “His son Jesus Christ”

\*Note: “Trinity,” ch. 2:22-23.

Life that is real must be “shared.”

\*Note: vs. 2, “shew unto you” and vs. 3, “declare we unto you.”  
And we should share it and shout it!

### III. Life that is Real Brings Fullness of Joy, vs. 4

- God's will for you is joy.
- Joy is the fruit of the Spirit. It's not the same as happiness.
- It's also the fruit of fellowship.
- It brings not just joy, but "full" joy! Literally, it can't be disturbed.  
Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full," John 15:11.

So John tells us why He wrote this letter:

1. "That your joy may be full," vs. 4.

- Do you need more joy? I John
- When you have the life of God, there is joy in your heart.

2. "That you sin not," 2:1.

- Holiness and true righteousness!
- Life that is real is a life of victory!
- Ask? Do you need victory over sin?

3. "That you may not be deceived," 2:26.

- Knowing the truth.
- Life that is real is knowing and believing the truth about Jesus.

4. "That you may know that you have eternal life," 5:13.

- "Assurance" John 3:16 & vs. 36  
Life that is real is the life of God in the soul of man.

Ask yourself, "Do you know you have eternal life?"

How?

Believe.