

The Book Of 1 John
Chapter 1
“I Have Called You Friends”

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In 1994, At Lake Elementary school in Oceanside California, there was a very unusual looking class that has 14 boys with no hair.

One of them, however, had no choice.

Ian O’Gorman was undergoing chemotherapy for lymphoma, and as a process of this treatment Ian lost all of his hair.

The other 13 of his classmates had a choice, and they didn’t want Ian to feel out of place. One of the young boys explains their decision:

“If everybody has his head shaved, sometimes people don’t know who is who”, said 11 year old Scott Sebelius.

“They don’t know who has cancer and who just shaved their head”.

Kyle Hanslik, the boy who started it all said: ***“The last thing he would want is to not fit in. We just wanted to make Ian fell better.”***

Ian’s father Shawn choked back the tears as he talked about what the boys had done for his son: ***“It is hard to put into words what they have done for us...”***

Jesus came to the earth for one purpose, That you might Fit in.

Like the 13 young boys who made themselves like the one who was different, Jesus left heaven and became like you, so that He could make you God’s friend.

John 15:15 Jesus said:

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

The book of 1 John is the most intimate and personal book that is in the entire Bible, with the exception of the Song of Solomon.

- ☞ **In 1 John**, the sins of a Christian are treated as though they are **the offenses of a child against a Father**.
- ☞ **Your sins are dealt with** as though you are a Family Member.
- ☞ **In this respect**, 1 John is written to you as *“Little Children”*, with great love and compassion.

When Paul writes in his letters, he is speaking to us about our “**Position**” with the Father as Sons and Daughters of God, John writes about **our closeness to the heart of the Father**.

- ☞ **Of all the things** you might do in your life since you first believed that Jesus Died for you and accepted Him as your Lord and Savior, the most important thing in your life, to the Father is “**Your Fellowship**”, you Friendship with Him.

The entire meaning and purpose for your being created was so that you could be a Friend to the Creator of the Universe.

- ☞ **The same purposes** that you are looking for in your life, **Love and Acceptance**, someone to give your love to, and someone to love you unconditionally, is the same purposes that the Father is seeking from you and I.
- ☞ **He wants your love**, and He wants to love you.
- ☞ **Amazingly, Of all the things** that the Father could create, with his unlimited and abounding power, He cannot create Friendship and Love that is sincere and genuine.

Sincere Love and Friendship must be by “**Free Will**”. In order for it to be meaningful, love must be freely given.

- ☞ **If you had unlimited creative power**, you could make anything, what would be the one thing that you would want most of all?
- ☞ **Friends** to share it all with.
- ☞ **Oh You could create friends**, you could even pre program them to love you.
- ☞ **But unless their love was voluntarily given to you**, that love would not have any meaning to you.

There is nothing that is more meaningful and fulfilling than when someone says “**I love you**”, **and you know that they really mean it**.

- ☞ **That is what** the Lord of Heaven is seeking from you!
- ☞ **As Powerful as God is**, He could not create this.
- ☞ **He could make the people**, and give them the capacity to love, and make them with an overwhelming desire to be loved and have a desire to give their love, **but he could not “Pre program” them to love Him ahead of time, if He really wanted their love to be meaningful.**

God did not want Robots that said “**I Love You**”, every time He squeezed them, He wanted sincere love, that is freely given.

So, in making us with our own Free Will, there was a gamble of sorts. What if they willingly chose not to love you? How would you respect that decision? What do you do with these that refused to love you and even rebelled against you?

- ☞ **This is where** the Laws of the Universe come into place.

- ⊞ **If you are going to make a creation**, that creation must be governed by certain Laws, otherwise their will be disorder and chaos.
- ⊞ **So, the Father**, wanting really only one thing, **Love**, bases all laws on one principle:
 1. **Love God** with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Mark 12:30

Jesus said: you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment

So Jesus came to make that possible...

- ⊞ **Before Jesus came**, friendship with God was impossible.
- ⊞ **Because God is morally perfect**, only those who are also morally perfect, can have fellowship with Him.
- ⊞ **It is quite obvious** if you read the morning news papers, that mankind is not morally perfect.

One thing that proves to me that the Bible is true, is what it says about us. That we are a flawed, fallen creation.

- ⊞ **Everyone of us** knows somehow that we are not right.
- ⊞ **We have this desire to be good and righteous**, but something deep inside of us keeps us from consistently doing good.
- ⊞ **Once we give ourselves over to wrong**, we seem to become more and more wrong, until we self destruct ourselves or others.

Because of this inherent flaw in us that cannot be repaired by our own effort or the best programs of man, **God cannot have fellowship with us.**

- ⊞ **In fact**, because of our nature, every human being is under an **Eternal Death sentence**, destined to be separated from fellowship with God, Forever.
- ⊞ **The Bible describes** this internal flaw in us as "**Sin**", which means to "**Miss the mark of perfection**".

Enter Jesus into the scene of Human Impossibility.

- ⊞ **Like the 13 young boys** at Lake Elementary School who shaved their heads and became like Ian, Jesus took upon Himself the Body of a human being so that he could become like one of us.
- ⊞ **Then Jesus did something** truly amazing, He took our place at the judgment for our sins.

Before the Earth or the Universe was ever spoken into existence by Jesus, He voluntarily stepped forward and offered Himself up to take our place and bear the punishment for all of our wrong.

- ☞ **Isn't that amazing**, when you consider that before Jesus made us with this capacity to choose to love Him or Reject Him, He knew ahead of time that the very first man he made would reject His Love.
- ☞ **The way that it worked** was that when Adam Rejected Gods love and rule of his life, something happened inside of him, a flaw called **sin** entered his being.
- ☞ **Like the color of a persons eyes**, or the size and shape of their nose, this genetic defect, this inability to be morally perfect became a part of Adams Spiritual Genetics.
- ☞ **That means** that every person born after Adam would have this same inability to be morally perfect.
- ☞ **As eye color**, and nose shape is inherited from their parents, Adam passed along to us his "**Sin Gene**".

We are born with a total incapacity to be morally perfect. It doesn't matter how long you go to school, or how refined you become. It doesn't matter how many behavior modification techniques you study, you will never become morally perfect.

- ☞ **And we will remain Morally Imperfect** Unless, someone could have the capacity to recreate you into a brand new creation, minus the defective Sin Gene.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is **a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

John 3:3-6

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

So, this is what the Book of 1 John is all about, what happens to a human being when they are "Born Again" as this New Creation.

- ☞ **At the moment** this person is "Born Again", The Spirit of the Living God comes to live in that person forever.
- ☞ **But, at the same time**, this person who has Been Born Again, is still housed inside the same old Body that is Defective and still wants the fallen nature to control it.

So John writes to explain to us how we can stay in this continuous fellowship with the Living God.

- ☞ **What to do when we fail and fall** as we are this New Creation that is Born Again, living in a fallen body.

1 John 1

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—
2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

If you had the most amazing secrets that the Universe contained, who would you want to share them with?

- ☞ **Wouldn't it be** with your closes and most intimate and trusted friends?
- ☞ **It has always been interesting to me** that the only Disciple of the 12 men that Jesus chose, that was at the Cross with Jesus when He was being Crucified, was John. (John 19:25)
- ☞ **John had such a deep and sincere love for Jesus**, that nothing could prevent him from just being near him.
- ☞ **John often referred to himself as being “The disciple that Jesus loved”**. In fact, the verse where John describes himself this way finds John sitting so near to Jesus that he actually has his head resting on Jesus chest.

John 13:23

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

This closeness and intimacy that John felt with Jesus was so well know among the disciples that a rumor got started that John would never die.

John 21:20-23

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw **the disciple whom Jesus loved** following, **who also had leaned on His breast at the supper**, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?”
21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “**But Lord, what about this man?**”
22 Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”
23 Then this saying went out among the brethren **that this disciple would not die**. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?”

With this kind of Love and closeness that John felt with Jesus, is it any wonder then that John was the one that Jesus selected to write the Book of Revelation.

- ☞ **Jesus chose John** to see the throne room of heaven, and us the church there with Jesus before the opening of the first of the 7 seals, that begins the Tribulation Period and the Great Tribulation Period.
- ☞ **One of the early church fathers**, Polycarp wrote that when John was to be killed in a similar manner to all of the other 11 disciples, they took John and placed him into a large pot of boiling oil.

- ☞ **As they watched**, John just sort of sat there in the boiling oil and nothing happened to him, so they decided to place John out on the isolated, desolate Island in the Aegean Sea called "**Patmos**".

It is interesting that when we are in those desolate, isolated places of our life, that this is where we can see Jesus the clearest, and this is the place where Jesus reveals Himself to us in the most awesome ways.

So John is writing to us this morning, telling us that the things that he has written about Jesus, come from someone who rested His head on the Chest of Jesus.

- ☞ **Someone who stood at the foot of Jesus Cross** and looked into His beautiful eyes as He suffered so much pain.
- ☞ **John was the disciple who knew first hand** the Love that Jesus has, and He was a intimate and dear friend of Jesus.

So when John writes:

1 John 1

1 That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen with our eyes**, which **we have looked upon**, and **our hands have handled**, concerning the Word of life—

2 **the life was manifested, and we have seen**, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us

John says "**Hey man I was there, I saw Jesus with my own eyes,**

- ☞ *I touched Him with my hands,*
- ☞ *I watched him Raise Lazarus from the dead after he had already began to decay,*
- ☞ *I saw them pierce Jesus hands and feet, then thrust That spear into His side.*
- ☞ *Then I was there when we went to the Tomb that we had placed Jesus after He had died, And*
- ☞ *I saw Jesus alive after He rose from the dead.*
- ☞ *I ate fish with him on the shore of Galilee after He was raised,*
- ☞ *I touched the scars from the nails they placed in Jesus hands, I saw him, I touched Him, I know that Jesus is everything that He claimed to be, God in Human flesh...*

In a court of law, there is no greater, no more compelling, than that of someone who was actually there and saw and heard what happened. John say that He was an "**Eyewitness**" of all that Jesus said and did...

1 John 1

3 **that which we have seen and heard we declare to you**, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

John says the reason that I am writing this to you, is to tell you what I saw and heard, and to tell you that God wants to have Fellowship with you.

☞ **The Only way that this fellowship is possible**, is through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Many Critics of the Bible claim that Jesus never said that He was God, that Jesus never claimed that He was the only way to heaven.

- ☞ **Whenever someone says things like that**, it tells me one thing, “They haven’t read and studies the Bible.
- ☞ **Because if they had**, they wouldn’t say that Jesus never claimed to be God and the only way to heaven. **Listen to the word of Jesus own mouth:**

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me

John 10:30

I and My Father are one.”

John 8:24

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

John 10:33

The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, **make Yourself God.**”

So, John is writing this little Book to us so that we can understand how to have continuous uninterrupted fellowship with God.

1 John 1

4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light** and in Him is no darkness at all.

When the Bible says “***Light***” in this context, or “***To Walk in the Light***”, it means to walk in fellowship with God, to have a close friendship with Him.

- ☞ **For many Christians**, there is some confusion over what happens to their relationship with the Lord when they are struggling with sin.
- ☞ **“If I have sinned**, is that an indication that I really am not Saved?”
- ☞ **“If I continually struggle** with a particular sin, does that mean I have lost my salvation?”

In order to understand these questions, it is important to establish a foundation.

- ☞ **When Jesus died on the Cross**, He was paying for the sins of every single person that has ever been born on the earth.

1 John 2:2

And Jesus Himself is the propitiation (Sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only **but also for the whole world**.

John 3:16

“For God so loved **the world** that he gave his only Son, so that **everyone** who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

- ☞ **So, when you first** asked Jesus to forgive all of your sins, and come into your life and be your Lord and Savior, He did just that.
- ☞ **Jesus has already forgiven** every sin that you have ever committed, or ever will commit throughout your entire lifetime.
- ☞ **In fact**, when the Bible says that we are “***Justified***” through the blood of Jesus sacrifice, it means something very interesting:

Romans 3:24

being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

The root meaning of the word “Justified”, is **Just—as—if—ied**, never sinned”

- ☞ **When Jesus forgave all of your sins**, He made it forever, as though you had NEVER sinned.
- ☞ **If you have asked Jesus to forgive all your sins**, you exist today and forever as a “perfect being”.

This means that Positionally with God, you are absolutely secure in your salvation, you are A Son or Daughter of the Most High God, and you cannot ever lose that position as a Son or Daughter.

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,
39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us** from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Galatians 4:7

Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

John 10:29

My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand

My two sons Rob and Mike may from time to time, do things in their life that will break our fellowship together, **but even when our fellowship is broken, they are still my sons**, nothing can ever change that.

- ☞ **When a Christian sins** or struggles with sin after they have confessed their sins to Jesus and He has come in to their heart to live, their relationship as a Son or a Daughter will not change.
- ☞ **What is temporarily interrupted** is their FELLOWSHIP with the Lord.

Sin breaks fellowship with God, until it is confessed, and cleansed by the Lord.

- ☞ **The purpose for John writing this to us** here in chapter one, is to teach us what we must do when we have sinned, to keep our fellowship, our friendship with God uninterrupted.

Confession of that sin, an admitting that it was wrong, and a willingness to turn from that sin and not do it again. When these parts of our confession are met, The Lord cleanses us from these daily sins, and immediately restores our fellowship with Him.

Jesus illustrated this important point in John chapter 13:

John 13:1-10

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

4 **Jesus rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.**

5 After that, **He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel** with which He was girded.

6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" ¶ Jesus answered him, "**If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.**"

9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

10 Jesus said to him, "**He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet**, but is completely clean; and you are clean

Peter did not understand what Jesus was doing, until Jesus explained this to him.

1. When any person confesses their sins to Jesus and asks Him to forgive them, Jesus makes them Clean, as though they had never sinned.

2. As we walk through this world in our daily lives, we pick up sin. Things we hear and see other people do. Things that we do and say, sin is picked up upon us everyday.
3. When we immediately confess these sins to Jesus: “he is faithful and just to forgive us...”
4. Our fellowship is then immediately restored to the Father.

1 John 1

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But **if we walk in the light** as He is in the light, **we have fellowship with one another,** and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

So, if a person says that they have fellowship with Jesus, but there is unconfessed sin in their life, they have not yet brought their sin to Jesus for forgiveness, then they are not really in fellowship with Jesus.

- ☞ **We have the benefit** that if we immediately confess the sins we just did, that we are immediately cleansed of that sin and our fellowship with the Lord is uninterrupted.

“If we walk in the light...we have fellowship with one another,,,”

- ☞ **In order to have fellowship with each other,** we must also continually confess our sins that we commit against each other.
- ☞ **When we do,** and we have also brought these sins to Jesus and confessed them, we can have the confidence of these verses, that we are forgiven, and our fellowship with each other and the Lord will remain uninterrupted.

But if we “**Walk in Darkness**”, we refuse to humble ourselves and confess our sins to Jesus or each other, then verse 6 says “We do not practice the truth”.

- ☞ **Verse 10 says** that if we claim to know Jesus and have a relationship with Him, but will **not continually confess our daily sins** and become cleansed of them, they “**WE MAKE JESUS A LIAR**”.

The awesome promise of verse 9 is that IF we confess our sins, He is both FAITHFUL and JUST to forgive us our sins and also to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”.

1. **Faithful,** in that He hears our confession of Sin and forgives us.

2. **Just** in that He has justly punished your sins, just as He said that He would. The only difference is that because you gave all your sins to Jesus, He will not punish you, he punished His own Son instead.

A guy once said: *“If one man calls you a donkey, pay him no mind, if two men call you a donkey, get a saddle”.*

Well, that is the point of this study: The Lord is encouraging us to examine our hearts right now before we take communion together:

- ⊕ **Have I been a donkey lately?**, have I been a little stubborn about confessing a sin to the Lord.
- ⊕ **If so**, then my fellowship with the Lord has been interrupted.’
- ⊕ **The encouragement** is to right now just confess that sin to the Lord and allow Him to cleanse us, and restore that fellowship with Him.

If you have never invited Jesus to forgive all of your sins, you can do that this morning and be Born Again.

- ⊕ **We should not take communion** at all, unless we are walking in fellowship with Jesus.
- ⊕ **Confess the sins**, agree with the Lord that it is sin, and be willing to walk away from it and not do it again.
- ⊕ **Then He will restore our fellowship with Him**, and we can take communion with Him this morning.