

It's All About the Center Pt. 5

1 JOHN

1 John 1:1-4, Wednesday, October 15, 2025

It's All About the Center Pt. 5

I John 1:1-4

I. Identify the Center

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I John 1:1-4

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, **and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father**, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

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I John 1:1-4

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John 1:14

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

John 1:4

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“Though from John’s point of view truth would by no means be antithetical to much of what naturalistic science affirms today, it would be markedly less reductionist. **Truth is as much a matter of what God, by word or deed, in creation or redemption, has revealed as it is of what humans observe and infer.** Ideally, divine revelation and humble human inference work together, and when they do, truth in a full sense can emerge. Precisely this concurrence of divine self-disclosure and human reception is what John writes about here as he ‘testifies’ or ‘bears witness.’”

Robert Yarbrough

It's All About the Center Pt. 5

I John 1:1-4

- I. Identify the Center
- II. The Center Determines Fellowship

No matter what we say about what we believe/value, how would you determine the glue holding us together?

- Find the common thing we all are saying
- What gets us all out to church together (to serve, to _____)
- What do we all love? What does love for each other look like?
- What refines us—what is left after fire or trial
- What books are we reading/who are we listening to
- As we go through rough times together and our relationships take a hit, what is left
- Examine the reasons that keep us from being together
- Commitment—things you choose (love which includes commitment); clearly defined goal; absolutes that both subscribe to—covenant
- Faith—where we are looking together

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I John 1:1-4

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22** For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; **23 but we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

1 Corinthians 1:20-23

in whose case the god of this world has **blinded** the minds of the unbelieving so that **they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord**, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:4-5

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I John 1:1-4

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but **has passed out of death into life**.

John 5:24

Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 **for they cannot even die anymore**, because they are like angels, and **are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection**.

Luke 20:34-36

The real question: “Who has fellowship with the Father?” If this is true, how should it affect what we **ALL** look for and where we **ALL** place our energy among the people of God regardless of personality, season of life, or specific area of burden?

- Contentment now AS you move forward
- How we worship and glorify God as root of all focus throughout every aspect of life (family, business, country, church community) role of the Spirit is crucial - Rom. 8:13
- Day to day living through joy and tears with God and doing it on display
- What proclaimed to us from who have seen and heard and been commissioned to give us—THIS becomes the focus
- We can't care for other people (saved or unsaved) like we should if we aren't fixed on fellowship with God (abiding in Him - Jn. 15)
- Christ is larger in His sufficiency than all our areas of emphasis—seeing no one according to the flesh
- In order to have fellowship with the Father, must have reconciliation with the Son—those who believe the Scriptural truth about Jesus (think how you would expose this)
- Christ's path from heaven to earth and from earth to heaven—how do we worship and follow Him in this path

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This statement of the apostolic objective in the proclamation of the gospel, namely a human fellowship arising spontaneously from a divine fellowship, is a **rebuke** to much of our modern evangelism and church life. **We cannot be content with an evangelism which does not lead to the drawing of converts into the church, nor with a church life whose principle of cohesion is a superficial social camaraderie instead of a spiritual fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

John Stott

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I John 1:1-4

- I. Identify the Center
- II. The Center Determines Fellowship
- III. The Center Determines Joy

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What do you hear in verse 4? What is implied by these words in the context we have so far?

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I John 1:1-4

“These things I have spoken to you so that **My joy** may be in you, and that **your joy may be made full**.

John 15:11

“Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; **ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full**.

John 16:24

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“These things I have spoken to you so that **My joy** may be in you, and that **your joy may be made full**.

John 15:11

“Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; **ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full**.

John 16:24

“But now I come to You; and **these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves**.

John 17:13

Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; **but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full**.

2 John 12

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I John 1:1-4

“Christian community is partnership in experience; it is the common living of people who have a shared experience of Jesus Christ. They talk about this experience, they urge each other to grow more deeply in it, and they discover that through it, they begin to build a life together unlike any shared life in the world.”

Gary Burge

It's All About the Center Pt. 5 | John 1:1-4

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“Christian fellowship is triangular; my life in fellowship with Christ, your life in fellowship with Christ, and my life in fellowship with yours.”

Gary Burge

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What would have to change, (or be a prerequisite) for your joy to be tied to THIS kind of triangular fellowship? (OR how would you head toward this?)

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