

It's All About the Center Pt. 6

1 JOHN

1 John 1:1-4, Wednesday, October 22, 2025

It's All About the Center Pt. 6

I John 1:1-4

I. Identify the Center

It's All About the Center Pt. 6

I John 1:1-4

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

John 1:4

It's All About the Center Pt. 6

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

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

It's All About the Center Pt. 6 | John 1:1-4

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

It's All About the Center Pt. 6

| John 1:1-4

John Stott's Statement

- Cultivate—farming term—loosen dirt to give nutrients and get rid of weeds
- call to fellowship with one another if truly tied to the Head
- Must put effort into building Christ into every relationship starting with those IN the faith
- speaks to HOW we draw people into the church—with what? For what?
- why are people hesitant to become part of the fellowship? Talking about this whether they are saved or not will lead to talking about God and how we can have fellowship with Him through Christ

It's All About the Center Pt. 6 | John 1:1-4

Give final thoughts on THIS fellowship as glue—how to pursue koinonia with other believers around spiritual fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

It's All About the Center Pt. 6 I John 1:1-4

“Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you; O Israel, if you would listen to Me! 9 “Let there be no strange god among you; Nor shall you worship any foreign god. 10 “I, the LORD, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt; **Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.**

Psalm 81:8-10

It's All About the Center Pt. 6 | John 1:1-4

“The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night. For all the ill that Satan can do, when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of his love, it is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen, and a wife (Luke 14:18-20).

The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable”

John Piper (A Hunger for God [Wheaton: Crossway, 1997], 14)

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I John 1:1-4

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

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

- If you are not cultivating fellowship with God through Christ in own life, then life of the household of faith, then out beyond, then missing on joy that results from that fellowship
- You can have joy with the Lord, but the idea of completed joy tied to the fellowship with God of others is often missing for us
- Joy tied to what took place to bring fellowship with God
- Dependent on others for full expression of that joy
- God so loved the world THAT He gave His only Son—wants others to experience love of the Father—so should we

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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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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

“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

It's All About the Center Pt. 6 | 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

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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.”

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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.” 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?)

- I am only as close to God as I want to be—if I move closer to God and help others move closer to God, then we get closer to each other
- True life of God inside NEEDS to be expressed—we WANT to display the glory of God in the face of Christ
- MUST love souls/desire to reach souls to live vv. 3-4
- Recalling who God is and what He has done brings us closer to Him—praying for His power to know His love—Eph. 3:14-21

Life Lived Around the Center



1 JOHN

1 John 1:5-2:2, Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Life Lived Around the Center Pt. 1

I John 1:5-2:2

I. The Center is Rooted in God's Character v. 5

Life Lived Around the Center Pt. 1

I John 1:5-2:2

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

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

John 1:18

Life Lived Around the Center Pt. 1 I John 1:5-2:2

Why start with God's character as light before talk about how we live to please Him? ie. What happens if we start the gospel with sin?

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Life Lived Around the Center Pt. 1

I John 1:5-2:2

“Theology must always begin with recitation in which we examine and state clearly what God has already said in history. This special revelation, then, becomes the check on our inspirations and our speculations.”

Gary Burge