

By the end of the first century False teachers had infiltrated the churches.

John writes with a sense of urgency- wanting to restore fellowship and joy in a divided community.

He shares four reasons for writing this letter.

- (1) To Promote Fellowship - **1 John 1:3**
- (2) To Provide Joy - **1 John 1:4**
- (3) To Prevent Sin - **1 John 2:1**
- (4) To Provide Assurance - **1 John 5:13**

John uses the verb know 25 times in 1 John.

It is as if John is saying to the false teachers (the Gnostics),

“You think you know some things but here is what you need to know!”

Christianity in its essence is not a system of thought.

It is a relationship with a person – Jesus Christ –

I. REAL CHRISTIANITY IS JESUS CHRIST REVEALED

John uses **three verbs** to describe his experience with Jesus.

1. Whom we have heard

He records more of the words of Jesus than any other Gospel writer.

He remembers the parables of Jesus.

He remembers the powerful preaching of Jesus,

He remembers how Jesus reached out compassionately. .

His mind is filled with the words of Christ.

2. We Saw Him with Our Own Eyes

The Apostles saw Jesus turn the water into wine, walk on water.

They saw him heal the multitudes and they saw Him raise the dead.

The 35 miracles recorded in the NT are only a fraction of those the apostles witnessed.

John 21:24-25

3. We Touched Him with Our Own Hands.

The false teachers denied Jesus was the Messiah.

John is absolutely clear about what he has heard and seen and touched.

II. REAL CHRISTIANITY IS JESUS CHRIST EXPERIENCED.

There is a difference between knowing about someone and **KNOWING** them.

1. Real Christianity is rooted in a revelation, but it is realized in a relationship.

2. It really does not matter how much you know about Jesus if you don't know him.

If you haven't received Christ, you don't know Christ.

It is through repentance and trusting Christ that you are born into family of God.

III. REAL CHRISTIANITY IS JESUS CHRIST PROCLAIMED.

I John 1:5

Jesus Christ is to be shared!

Matthew 10: 32, 33; II Corinthians 5:16-18

Make sure you have the real deal!