

Real Life: 4 Marks of Authentic Christianity (1 John 1:1-4)

October 19, 2025

TEXT: 1 John 1:1-4

REVELATION (1 John 1:1-2)—The Holy Spirit inspires John to write this letter giving eyewitness testimony of the physical and historical reality of Jesus' life on earth. John tells us that God personally revealed Himself to the Apostles by sending Jesus from eternity to be born in time and space (**See Jn.1:1-3, 14**). Relationship with Christ always starts with God revealing Himself to us through His Son and then we respond to His grace by faith.

Jude 3-4

Ps.19:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1-2

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Luke 5:1-11

John 20:26-29

PROCLAMATION (1 John 1:2)—John understood that the gospel message he received from God was not only for himself but is meant to be shared with the whole world. This is authentic Christianity, and he used three words to communicate this truth.

John 15:26-27

John Stott (1921-2011) --*Jesus not only manifested Himself to the disciples to qualify them as eyewitnesses but gave them an*

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authoritative commission as apostles to preach the gospel.

Rom.10:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:1-8

**R.C. Sproul via the Reformation Study Bible—
*The central event of history is the appearance of eternal life in Jesus Christ. John is one of the chosen witnesses who saw, heard, and touched the One who had existed from the beginning—the Son of God, whose eternal fellowship with the Father is now extended to others. This extension takes place through the apostolic proclamation, including the writing of 1 John itself.***

FELLOWSHIP (1 John 1:3)—God's purpose for revealing His plan of salvation through faith in

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Jesus is fellowship with fellow believers in Christ based on an eternal fellowship with Almighty God.

*Through faith in the Gospel we share in God's divine nature **[2 Pet.1:4]**.

*When you come to Christ you share the very life of God in your soul **[1 Jn. 5:11-12]**.

JOY (1 Jn. 1:4)—John's joy in Christ was real but couldn't be complete without fellow and future believers sharing this same joy. Gaining a true knowledge of Christ leads to joy.

Gospel revelation —> Gospel proclamation —> to Gospel Fellowship —> Gospel Joy.

Phil.4:4