1. [THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN CONCERNING THE SON OF GOD: THE SON OF GOD HAS COME TO EARTH, 1:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00006557" \l "link324)

1 John 1:1-5 (KJV) 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, of the Word of life;   
2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)   
3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.   
4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.   
5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

* 1. John’s account is given from the perspective of an eyewitness. He was with Jesus as a disciple and he witnessed personally the things of which he speaks.
  2. John’s conclusion and his message focuses on the perfection of God and man’s need to be made perfect.
  3. Critical Observations to be made
     1. The purpose of Jesus, the Son of God, coming to this earth was to directly make possible our fellowship with Him.
     2. His purpose was also to make possible our fellowship with others who have fellowship with Him.
     3. God is perfect in holiness and righteousness. There is nothing unholy nor unrighteous that can be found in Him.
        1. Holiness and righteousness are characterized as **Light**. Light is a picture of truth, knowledge, and righteousness.
        2. Anything not holy and not righteous are characterized as **Darkness**. Darkness is a picture of falsehood, ignorance, and sin.
     4. Fellowship means to share common interest, activity, feeling, or experience.
        1. Fellowship with God means to have a relationship with God which involves agreement with who He is and what He requires.
        2. Fellowship with other believers results from each having fellowship with God.

1. [THE BASIS OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00006812#link325)

1 John 1:6-10 (KJV) 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:   
7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth 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.

* 1. Walking in the Light
     1. We have fellowship with God.
     2. We have fellowship with other believers.
  2. Confessing our sins
     1. Christians are not perfectly sinless in this world.
        1. We do not always do the right thing (omission) and sometimes we do the wrong thing (commission).
        2. Any failure to obey God’s will is sin.
        3. The sins committed by Christians must be acknowledged and confessed.
     2. If we truly repent and confess our sins, God will forgive us.

1. FALLACIES CONCERNING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD
   1. [Fallacy 1: Man Can Fellowship with God and Still Walk in Sin, 1:6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00006812#link325)
      1. If we **say** that we have fellowship with Him, but are walking in darkness – ignorance and sin – we are lying and presenting an untrue or false testimony.
      2. In contrast to that, if we are walking in the light as He is in the light, we truly do have fellowship with Him. There is no darkness and our sins are forgiven, paid for and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, there is nothing to separate us from God.
   2. [Fallacy 2: Man is Not Totally Sinful and Depraved, 1:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00006917#link326)
      1. God’s Word Reveals the true condition of the heart of man.
         1. **Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV)** 9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
         2. **Romans 3:23 (KJV)** 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
      2. The common inclination of the heart of unregenerate man is to sin and to rebel.
         1. **Genesis 6:5 (NET1)** 5 But the LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind had become great on the earth. Every inclination of the thoughts of their minds was only evil all the time.
         2. **Mark 7:21-23 (NET1)** 21 For from within, out of the human heart, come evil ideas, sexual immorality, theft, murder,   
            22 adultery, greed, evil, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, and folly. 23 All these evils come from within and defile a person.”
         3. **Romans 3:10-12 (KJV)** 10 As it is written, “There is none righteous, no, not one:   
            11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.   
            12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”
      3. The heart of God and the unregenerate heart of man have nothing in common, are at enmity with one another, and have no basis for fellowship.
   3. [Fallacy 3: Man Can Become Sinless and Righteous on His Own, 1:10-2:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00006992#link327)
      1. Man is already unrighteous and has no means to “settle” with God on his own.
         1. There is no one who has not committed sin at some point in life.
         2. There is nothing we can offer God which will cover the debt that even one sin brings.
      2. Misunderstanding what sin actually is causes some people to think that they can **do** **something** to make a difference in their relationship with God.
         1. God is perfect in holiness and righteousness.
         2. God requires the same perfection in His creation, i.e., mankind.
         3. We have missed that mark perfection. We only have one strike at it and we all have struck out.
2. GOD’S DESIRE FOR MANKIND AND HIS PROVISION FOR US:

1 John 2:1-2 (KJV) 1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:   
2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

* 1. God desires that we, as believers, do not sin.
     1. It hinders our fellowship with Him and with each other.
     2. It damages our testimony and witness to a world that needs to see and hear the truth.
     3. It enables Satan to bring accusations against us, causing us to have fear and doubt, and loss of assurance and peace.
  2. Believers do not live sinless lives. Unfortunately.
     1. If and when we sin as believers, Jesus advocates for us before the Father and our sins are placed under His blood.
        1. They are fully atoned for by this.
        2. We are no longer chargeable for them.
     2. Jesus does this for all who believe and are saved by grace through faith.