

1 John 1:3 – 2:2

New International Version

1 ³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so
 2 that you also may have fellowship with us. And our
 3 fellowship is with the Father and with his **F** Son, Jesus
 4 Christ. ⁴We write this to make our joy complete. ⁵This
 5 is the message we have heard from him and declare to
 6 you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If
 7 we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the
 8 darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we
 9 walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship
 10 with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies
 11 us from all sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we
 12 deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we
 13 confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us
 14 our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we
 15 claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar
 16 and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}My dear children, I write
 17 this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does
 18 sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ,
 19 the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our
 20 sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the
 21 whole world.

*Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

Observation (What does it say?):

Circle occurrences of words that are repeated three or more times.

*Find the divine pronouns (he, his, etc. – not capitalized in NIV). Mark which Person the pronoun indicates, **F**ather or **S**on.*

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How are the different statements about fellowship related?

- With the Father (v. 3)
- With the Son (v. 3)
- With one another (v. 7)

The emphasis of the first part of the passage is on fellowship (repeated 4x); the second part is about sin (10x). How does verse 7 connect these two main ideas? (If you don't think these are the main two ideas of the passage, SPEAK UP!!)

How does John's explanation in this passage support his goals of fellowship (v. 3) and joy (v. 4)?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

When you think of fellowship with God ("with the Father and with his Son") what comes to mind?

What does that look like in your life?

What would you like it to look like?

How does that fellowship relate to your fellowship with other believers? Can you give examples?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- Verse 7 says one of the results of walking in the light is fellowship with one another. Would you expect the verse to say the result of walking in the light is fellowship with God? How is verse 7 related to verse 6? How do the conditional “if” statements affect your understanding of the verses?
- Is “walking in the light” about behavior, or is it another way of saying “fellowship with him” in verses 6-7? How is our behavior related to our communion or fellowship with God? Which one is dependent on the other?
- What does it mean to have distinct “fellowship with the Father and with his Son”? (see John Owen, Communion with God).

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)