



It's Real

1 John 1:1-4

Big Idea for the Series: Ten weeks of biblical truth designed to show the evidence the Apostle John points to revealing true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life.”

The Bottom Line: Real life and all the joy that flows from it begins with Sonship and continues in fellowship.

Introduction:

Men search for meaning, purpose, and life – real life. People want their life to matter. As children, “Once upon a time” is enough. As adults, we want more, much more. We desire real life. Fairy tales don’t cut it anymore.

Behold the first three verses that open 1 John.

Truth:

Read 1 John 1:1-4.

John and the other apostles seen life – life that was from the beginning. Real life.

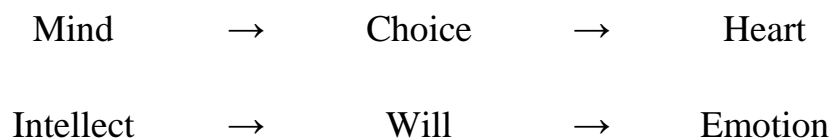
They heard it. They saw it. They touched it. They proclaimed it.

Then, the Apostle John tells us why he’s sharing all this in verses 3b-4.

We are focusing on this because through it our joy is complete, and this life is found only in Jesus Christ. Everything else is counterfeit.

John says there is a way to know for sure if you are the real deal, and he weaves together three primary ways for us to be certain: obedience (1 John 3), love (1 John 4), and truth (1 John 5).

God made us in His image, which means we have a personality that includes ...



Belief → Decision → Feeling

Real life includes all three.

When we believe a lie, it influences our choices, and when we make a bad decision, it impacts our feelings.

Lie → Disobedience → Downcast

But ... the reverse is also true:

Truth → Obedience → Joy/Love

This is why John teaches through a series of contrasts:

Truth		Obedience		Joy/Love
v.	→	v.	→	v.
Lies		Disobedience		Hatred

John makes it clear. Real life begins with Sonship and continues in fellowship. We are born of God; then, we walk with God. In the process, our mind is made new, and that newness impacts everything in our life.

Truth → Obedience → Love

Application & Next Steps

- Memorize 1 John 1:3
- If you have negative feelings, look to your actions.
- If you are in disobedience, check your beliefs.
- If you discover a lie, confess it and any sin attached to it.
- Get Biblical Counseling – southbaychurchli.org/counseling