**Eternal Life: Fellowship with the Father and the Son**

The Passage

Read together 1 John 1:1-4

The Big Idea

John presents us with the eternal life which he describes as fellowship with Jesus and his father. We are invited into this eternal life now to experience God’s love and God’s truth in the core of our being.

Questions for Discussion

1. Consider the various comments made on Sunday regarding what eternal life is all about according to John. What one or two ideas were most impactful for you and why?

2. In his earthly life, Jesus had such a deep and rich fellowship of love, obedience, and joy with his Father, and everything else in his life flowed from that center. To what extent do you think that kind of life is possible for us today? And what are your reasons (biblical or otherwise) for giving the answer you do?

3. How does John's perspective on eternal life encourage you to live differently than you are right now?

Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline

I. Introduction to 1 John

A. Written by the Apostle John

It is clear that what Jesus did and said in the upper room the night before he was crucified had a lasting impact on John, as can be seen by the contents of this letter

B. Most likely written to a group of churches around Ephesus

C. The Situation

1. Scholars believe that churches were established and then over time some other traveling teachers began to propagate false teachings about Jesus and members of these churches bought into their teaching and subsequently left those churches. This left the members who remained with a sense of insecurity and questioning as to whether they were walking the right path.

2. So John writes them to ground them in the teaching they had heard from the beginning and to give them a sense of confidence and assurance as to what true life in Christ looks like

3. He writes, “that you may know you have eternal life.” (5:13)

II. What is eternal life?

A. Many would say it is a quantity of life you receive when you die

B. For John it is a much deeper and richer concept than that

1. Eternal life is a person = Jesus Christ (see 1:2 and 5:20)

2. So if we have that person we have eternal life (5:11-12)

3. Eternal life is fellowship with Jesus and his father (1:3)

4. Eternal life is knowing “the only true God and Jesus Christ whom he sent (Jn 17:3)

5. So, eternal life is not just a quantity of life but a quality of life, and it is something we can begin to experience now.

III. The passage

A. The Son of God is eternal

1. He is “from the beginning” (v. 1, see also John 1:1-3)

2. He was “with/towards” the father (v. 2)

a. This word suggests a toward-ness, a relationality/fellowship

b. Consider John 17:5: “The glory I had with you before the world began”

c. Before there was a universe, there was glorious relationship between father and son.

d. The “eternal dance” of the Trinity out of which the universe is created.

B. The Son of God appeared (v. 2)

1. Eternal Son of God became a human being in the person of Jesus of Nazareth

2. John uses the sensory language of eyewitness testimony (see, hear, touch)

3. They witnessed the eternal life (fellowship) being lived out in Jesus of Nazareth

A. The Father’s affection and love for his Son (Jn 5:20 and Mt 3:17)

B. The Son’s devotion, dependence, and obedience to his Father (Jn 4:34, 5:19, 5:30, 8:29, 10:30)

C. Jesus had this rich fellowship with God that was the center out of which everything else in his life emerged: joy, purpose, love, courage, freedom

Everything that we want he has

Flows from this inner well (= deep fellowship with Father)

C. The good news is we are invited into the fellowship between Father and Son (v. 3)

1. The Father and Son will make their home in us (John 14:23)

2. The very life of God in us . . . That is eternal life

IV. What this looks like practically

A. “God is love” so the journey will be a deeper and deeper experience of love

Learning to rely on God’s love and learning to love others

B. “God is light” so the journey will be a deeper and deeper experience of truth

Learning to see reality the way God sees it and learning to live according to that reality