# Letter of Faith & Assurance #3

**1 John 1:3-4** –

 “Wash Up Before Fellowship”

Introduction:

 We have that close fellowship with God, and we want you to have this same fellowship. But, to have fellowship with the Father, you must come through His Son, Jesus Christ. If you believe on Jesus (who is Life eternal) then you can have Eternal Life, and if you have Eternal Life, then you have fellowship with the Father. John is saying that he wants these believers to have fellowship with them (the apostles). The work of the Apostles was to declare the Son.

**I. The Basis for Christian Fellowship Is Truth.**

A. We are not in fellowship with the apostles unless we are sharing with them in the truth.

 1. We must embrace the revealed truth of Jesus Christ.

 a. To witness that Jesus is the Son of God.

 b. To bear testimony of Jesus Christ.

 2. Christ is the the Way, **The Truth,** and the life

 a. John’s description of Jesus leaves no room for error:

 1. He was in the beginning

 2. He is the Word

 3. He was the manifestation of life

 4. He is equal with God because He is God

B. We cannot have fellowship with someone who believes in salvation by some other way

 1. Our fellowship with one another can only be if we agree on the revelation of God’s Word about Jesus Christ.

 a. Not Jesus Christ plus something else.

 b. Not Jesus added with this or that for Life Eternal.

 c. He died once alone for the sins of the whole world.

 1) Neither is there salvation in any other

 2) For there is none other name in Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

 2. We should defend a person’s right to believe what they want to believe.

 a. We cannot sit down and join hands with someone who believes that Jesus is equal with Mary or that

 b. The basis of our fellowship is what you believe about Jesus Christ.

 1) Not about the existence of a deity.

 2) Not about getting groups together in unity.

 c. All true fellowship is based on the truth of who Jesus is.

 3. We are commanded to love our neighbors, but that is different from fellowship

 a. This does not mean you cannot have friends who are not Christians.

b. We ought to be careful however not to allow people who do not have fellowship with God to influence our thinking.

 1. Do not make major life decisions based only on what a lost person says.

 i. Remember they do not believe the truth.

 ii. Remember you are supposed to be led by Godly wisdom.

 iii. Remember that wise counsel is from the Lord.

 2. The more time you spend listening to scorners and ungodly people the more you will be like them.

 c. This is not because we are better than anyone, it is because of how great Jesus is.

 4. Outside of Jesus Christ, there is no fellowship with God.

 a. Outside of Jesus Christ there is death.

 b. Life Eternal cannot fellowship with Death.

**II. Are you in fellowship with the Apostles.**

A. You have come into fellowship with God by faith in Jesus Christ.

 1. By faith in Jesus Christ.

 2. Trusting and believing in His Word.

 3. By spending time with Him day by day.

B. The disciples declared this message.

 1. They heard, saw and looked upon Him.

 2. They allowed the Word to come into them and change them.

 3. Then they went to out bear of the Eternal Life.

C. But you do not declare the message.

 1. You speak nothing of the truth which you have received.

 a. You do not witness to anyone about Christ

 b. You point no one to a saving knowledge of the Savior.

 2. Get in fellowship with John, the apostles, and other believers in your church.

 a. Declaring that this is true that Jesus is the Savior.

 b. Declaring that Jesus is the Son of God.

**II. Sin In Your Life Will Hinder Your Fellowship With God.**

1. What God wants for us is to have fellowship with Him and have fellowship with people.
	1. The greatest commandment is to love God
	2. The second greatest commandment is to love others.
	3. Our obedience to the first commandment is usually seen, but our prayer time and Bible reading are private.
	4. Our obedience to the second commandment always involves people in public.
2. It is possible to have fellowship with people and not have fellowship with God.
	1. You can come to church and put on a smile
	2. There are people apart from God who have happy marriages
	3. We can come to love people more than we love God
	4. None of these things necessarily mean that you are walking in sweet fellowship with God.
3. It is not possible for you to have fellowship with God and not have fellowship with others.
	1. God sees how you treat others.
	2. God sees how you think about others.
	3. Others may offend us, but we do must not harbor bitterness in our hearts.
4. God has made a way for us to get rid of the things that will hinder fellowship.
	1. He has made Himself available to us through prayer.
	2. He promises that if we confess, He will forgive us.
		1. Confession for Christians is for fellowship
		2. Confession is not for Christians to remain saved or be more saved.
	3. He has given us an example of forgiveness that He expects us to show to others.
		1. When you forgive someone you can have fellowship.
		2. When you are forgiven you can have fellowship.
5. A great hindrance to fellowship is if we lie to ourselves and say that we have no sin.
	1. It is easier to ignore problems than to deal with them.
	2. It takes a lot of work to continually live with a clean slate.
	3. God wants us to be honest and confess when we are wrong
		1. Wrong towards God.
		2. Wrong towards people.

Conclusion: The basis for your fellowship in our relationships is the truth. Truth does not always come out quickly, sometimes our lies to ourselves take years to surface. Don’t live a life pretending like everything is ok. Remember God see’s everything that is within you. Our salvation does not depend upon continued confessions, but the fellowship God desires from us is possible when we keep a clean conscience toward God and men. If you need to get something right, just do it. Be honest and remember that the basis for fellowship is truth.