

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Why are convictions, that is confident beliefs about doctrinal truths in the word of God, so important to establish and maintain for your Christian life? (i.e. everything starts with what you think and how you think will influence how you live. Too often we assume things that should be convictions for us based on the truth of God's word)

What do you appreciate about the author of 1 John? Share Biblical examples.

John was contending with problems within the church. Professing Christians were adopting the views of false teachers and it was influencing the church. Discuss the importance of the eyewitness testimony of John and the apostles for the Christian faith (v. 1).

Do you tend to be skeptical by nature? Or are you naturally more trusting? How does that affect how you view your relationship with God?

John was a witness to Jesus, the God-man. And his job was to testify and proclaim that eternal life to others. Are you a proclaimer of Jesus Christ? If not, where is it that you lack confidence?

What is fellowship Biblically? And how does that help us understand how we can have fellowship with God (v. 3)? (i.e. it's partnership, sharing in a common life, joint participation held in common. If this is fellowship, then fellowship with God is sharing in His life, His beliefs, His loves, His desires and adopting them as our own and thus sharing with Him in relationship.)

Why does John say "our" joy may be complete rather than "your" joy may be complete? (i.e. Nothing can be added to God, but that more of God can be experienced in the fellowship of the saints. Our joy in God's fellowship is made complete in the joy that others have in God's fellowship)