

1 John

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Study Outline

Background: John was Jew who grew up in the region of Galilee. Like most young men, John was learning to be a fisherman when he initially encountered Jesus. Along with his brother James, John forsook all to follow Jesus. He would be chosen as one of Jesus' twelve apostles and later (along with Peter and James) find himself in Jesus' inner circle. Referred to as the "disciple in whom Jesus loved" there seems to be an ample amount of scriptural evidence to show that John was Jesus' closest human friend. He was the only apostle to attend

Jesus' crucifixion. And it was John in whom Jesus entrusted the care of Mary his mother. Following Jesus' ascension, John would become one of the leaders of the apostolic church. Ultimately, John would settle in the region known as Asia Minor and pastor the Ephesian church. Beyond his pastoral ministry, he would later pen the Gospel of John, three epistles, and the book of Revelation. As the youngest of the twelve apostles John would live the longest. Though in the end John would die a natural death, numerous, unsuccessful attempts were made on his life. Emperor Domitian first tried to boil John in oil. When this attempt failed he had John banished to the island prison of Patmos. John was later released by Emperor Nerva where he returned to Ephesus to live out his days.

Main Point: In many ways John's 1st epistle reads more like a sermon than a letter. His style is organic and yet forward. In four separate places John clearly emphasized the purpose of his letter.

1 John 1:4 - "And these things we write to you that your joy may be full."

1 John 2:1 - "These things I write to you, so that you may not sin."

1 John 2:26-27 - "These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you..."

1 John 5:13 - "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."

During Jesus' three and a half year ministry, John had become Jesus' best friend. Though Jesus ascended to be with the father, over the years that followed John's relationship with Jesus had grown to new and incredible depths. Now an old man, John writes to the church with a simple intention. Enjoy the same delightful and rewarding fellowship with Jesus he had experienced. The key to achieving a similar relationship with Jesus is three-pronged. We must first walk in the light and not in the darkness. Secondly, we must walk in His love. And finally, we must grow in the life Jesus died to provide us.

1. GOD IS LIGHT (1 JOHN 1:5)

2. GOD IS LOVE (1 JOHN 4:8)

3. GOD IS LIFE (1 JOHN 5:12)

1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

1 JOHN 2:3-4:21

1 JOHN 5:1-21



Day 1: Walking in the Light....

1 John 1:5-10 // THINKING POINTS: (1). How does John describe the nature of God? In what way is "light" a great illustration of God's nature? (2). What does John mean when he discusses "walking in the darkness" as opposed to "walking in the light"? (3). What transformation occurs as we continually walk in the light of God?

Day 2: The Lust....

1 John 2:15-17 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What does John mean when he exhorts us not to "love the world or the things in the world"? (2). What three "lusts" does the world use to in its attempts to draw our flesh away from godliness into worldliness? (3). Examine your own life. In what way is Satan using these lusts to draw you away from God?

Day 3: Children of God....

1 John 3:1-3 // THINKING POINTS: (1). How does John want you to approach the reality that in Jesus we're "children of God"? (2). In what way is it significant that your relationship with God was "bestowed" not earned? (3). John challenges you to live a life consistent with the reality you are His child. How should this reality effect your life?

Day 4: In This is Love....

1 John 4:7-16 // THINKING POINTS: (1). When this passage speaks of "love" what kind of love is John describing? (2). Why is it so important you (as a believer) love those around you? Who does the Bible encourage you to love? (3). Take an honest look at your own life. Are you displaying the same kind of love to others as Christ has shown you?

Day 5: Fearless Love....

1 John 4:17-5:5 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What does John mean when he says "love has been perfected among us"? Who's love is John describing? (2). In context to the passage, what are the three results produced in the life that has experienced Christ's completing love? (3). When it comes to your relationship with God, have you reached a point of peace and rest in the love of God? Does your life reflect this?

Day 6: Eternal Life....

1 John 5:7-13 // THINKING POINT: (1). What ultimate gift do we receive from God through Jesus Christ? (2). When the Bible speaks of eternal life is it always discussed in the future tense? (3). In what way does God want you to experience "eternal life" in the present? What kind of life did Jesus die to provide you today?

DEVOTIONS

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