

The First Epistle of John

AUTHOR

John, the son of Zebedee Matt 4:18-22
One of the Twelve Apostles Matt 10:1-ff
Eyewitness of Christ 1Jn 1:1-4
A witness of Christ's Glory Matt 17:1-8; 2Pet 1:16-19
 Mount of Transfiguration
Accepted Authority of an Apostle 1Jn 4:6
"The" (not "an") Elder 2Jn 1; 3Jn 1
 A designation for the Apostles
Early Christian writers cited the epistle as John's, including:
 Irenaeus
 Clement of Alexandria
 Tertullian

DATE OF BOOK

No clear Internal Indications of when any of John's writings were written
Gospel appears to have been written prior to AD70
No mention of Temple being destroyed (No book of the Bible mentions it,
 although Hebrews makes reference of its expected soon coming -
 Heb9:6-10; 10:1,11)
In Jn 5:2 the sheep gate is still standing.
Eusebius and Irenaeus believed John wrote his Gospel from Ephesus between
 AD 48 and 52.
The Book of Revelation was the last book John wrote again before the
 destruction of the Temple (AD 70)
Thus a date between AD 48 and 70.

1 JOHN

PURPOSE FOR WRITING

Fellowship and Refuting False Teachers

POSSIBLE FALSE TEACHINGS REFUTED

1. The man, Jesus, and the Divine Christ were two distinct beings - that Christ descended on Jesus at His baptism, and left prior to His death.
1Jn 5:6-8
(water:baptism, blood:death - The Spirit of Truth bears witness that Christ's death involved the One who came.)

Also: 1Jn 1:2 states that the eternal life which came was handled.

2. Involved the idea that a believer was separate from all physical experience and that the "believing new person" was perfect, through continuing to dwell in the "unbelieving person".
1Jn 2:3,4,7; 1Jn 3:23; 1Jn 4:21; 1Jn 5:2-3

3. Both Light and Darkness originated with God, Himself.
1 Jn1:5; 1Jn 2:29

4. A common "clarification" from all the false teachers was that their teaching was a revision from God of that which had first been revealed. Thus, a "John phrase" of "from the beginning"
1Jn 1:1; 2:7; 2:24; 3:11

5. Idolatry may well have been involved
1 Jn5:21

6. The false teachers were connected with the Apostolic circle in some way, originally
1Jn 2:19

1 JOHN

CHAPTER ONE

Vs 1-4 Begins with a firsthand eyewitness account of what the author and his apostolic companions witnessed in Jesus Christ:

What we have heard (vs 3 also) perfect tense

What we have seen (vs 3 also) ongoing, shared experience

What we beheld

What our hands handled

(not the person of Christ) but rather, the "eternal life" which was with the Father and manifested to us

Jesus is "the true God and eternal life" 5:20

This life is the life his readers share 5:13

John is writing about what they witnessed in Jesus Christ,
WHO IS LIFE 5:11-12

Vs 2 The Apostles have seen this manifested life
They bear witness to it
They declare it to the readers Acts 1:4-8
This revelation was made only to the Apostles
They are now sharing this manifested life.

Vs 3 What the Apostles saw and heard cannot be experienced
by the readers until they enter His presence.

The Apostles can proclaim it, giving the readers the chance
to believe their message now. Jn 20:26-31

1 JOHN CHAPTER ONE

The purpose for John's writing:

To enable Fellowship; To protect their present fellowship
Fellowship (shared experiences, undertakings,
possessions, etc.)

A Fellowship with:

1. the Apostolic Witness
2. The Apostles' own Fellowship with the Father and His So
3. Fellowship with God cannot be experienced outside the Apostolic circle

Vs 4 John and the other Apostles experience great joy when those whom they lead to Christ are nurtured in the faith, and are true to the faith.

If the present letter succeeds, then that which they have heard from the beginning will abide in the readers.
True joy will be experienced by all.

Vs 5 The message we have heard from Him and announce:
"God is light; in Him there is no darkness; NONE!
(FREE FROM ALL MORAL DEFECT)

This must be understood for anyone desiring fellowship with Him.

GOD IS COMPLETELY HOLY (unlike the pagan gods represented throughout their culture).

1 JOHN CHAPTER ONE

Vs 6 "If we say..." vs 6,8,10

1. The believer who walks in sin has "lost touch with" the completely Holy God
2. If he claims to be in fellowship with God, he is lying.
Sinning believers ARE
OUT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

"practice the truth" means "to act consistently with the truth."
To claim to be in fellowship with God while walking in darkness is to behave contrary to the truth about God's Holiness.

Vs 7 Instead of walking in darkness, believers should walk in the light - live in God's presence, reflecting what He has revealed about Himself.

To walk in darkness - to hide from God and refuse to acknowledge what is known about Him.

Bottom Line: The believer who wants fellowship with the Lord must maintain an openness to Him and a willingness to be honest in His presence about everything that God shows him.

All Christians have already been cleansed (1Cor 6:11) and are fully forgiven (Eph 1:7) even though they remain sinful.

The "blood of Jesus" is also used to enable us to maintain our fellowship.

1 JOHN CHAPTER ONE

Vs 8 "If we say" we have no sin problem

We are self-deceived
The truth is not an active and controlling force that shapes
our thoughts and attitudes.

Vs 9 As long as believers walk in the light, that same light shows them
their failures.

When that happens: They confess their failures (sins)

NOTE: Repentance is not used in the context.

John is talking about believers who "discover" sin while
in fellowship with God. 1Jn 2:12-14

Their task is to abide. 1Jn 2:27,28

Repentance is needed when a believer has "walked away"
from God. Rev 2:5,16,21,22; 3:3,19

Confession of sin enables believers to remain in
fellowship.

Nowhere in John's writings is confession of sin a
requirement for salvation.

FAITH ALONE IS THE CONDITION

Jn 3:16; 5:24; 6:47; 1Jn 5:1, 12, 13

If believers deny what the light shows them, they
cease to be honest and open with God - and -
fellowship with Him ends.

If we agree with God about His revelation,
He is faithful and just to forgive us:

1. of the sin revealed
2. all unrighteousness we are not aware of.

NOTHING IS LEFT UNCLEANSSED!

Vs 10 When sin is revealed, believers either confess it - or -
deny it.

If they do the latter:

1. they make Him a liar
2. they leave their fellowship with God

CHAPTER TWO

Vs 1

My little children

They are believers, not people who should question if they are saved.

ALL THROUGH THE LETTER THEY ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD!

1Jn 2:12, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21

Again, their salvation is NEVER IN DOUBT.

The purpose for writing to them revolves around their:
FELLOWSHIP WITH THEIR "FATHER".

I am writing....that you:

1. do not excuse your person sins

2. are not encouraged to sin because of how fully they have been "taken care of" by God.
Rom 6:1-2

3. may not sin

Even though it is true that all "children of God" do sin - thus - we have been provided with an Advocate for when we do - JESUS CHRIST.

The function of our ADVOCATE is not to plead with the Father, asking Him not to cast out sinning believers.
Rom 8:31-39; 11:29

The function of our ADVOCATE is to intercede for believers that their "faith should not fail".
Lk 22:31-32

BOTTOM LINE: FAITH ALONE SAVES
which occurs ONCE IN A MOMENT IN TIME

Once saved - the faith that "appropriates the many gifts of God, is subject to failure -

Vs 2

He, Himself - by Himself - He intercedes for believers
because He has already personally made satisfaction
to God for their sins.

(No matter what the sin - God has already been "satisfied".
Indeed, Christ's propitiation was sufficient to cover
ALL THE SINS OF ALL HUMANITY) Jn 3:14-18
("THE WHOLE WORLD")

NOTE: The fact that Christ's death was payment for all of
humanity's sins does not mean that any are saved.

Two people are involved in the saving of a soul:

1. GOD - sin as a barrier to God has been removed
2. HUMANS - must also see Christ's death as removing
the barrier that sin causes between themselves and
God.

Until this occurs, the sinner remains dead and
"alienated" from the life of God. Eph 4:18

3. At the final judgement of the lost (Rev 20:11-15),
sin as sin will not be the criteria; rather -
their works will be.
Their works will result in their having no claim to
God's salvation.

CHRIST'S WORK - CLAIMS THE PRIZE
MAN'S WORK - NO BASIS FOR RECEIVING IT

Vs 3

A TEST

Not "Are we saved?"

A person is saved when he/she accepts that something
is true - that Christ died for their sins, was buried, and
rose from the dead.

1Cor 15:1-8; God's witness 1Jn 5:9-13; Jn 3:16;

Jn 5:24; 6:35

But do we "know" Him - a fellowship of knowing 1Jn3:3
All believers "know" Christ at a foundational level;
All believers may not "know" Him at the level of communion
and fellowship
Experiential knowledge of God - not saving knowledge - is
the focus

Just as a claim to fellowship with Him is false when the
believer is walking in the darkness 1:6, so
Making the same claim when not keeping His
commandments is also not true.

Vs 4 Someone might claim such a thing but in claiming this they
 are lying; the truth is not in them.
Without obedience to God's commandments, no person can claim
an intimate, personal knowledge and relationship with
the Father and with His only begotten Son.

Vs 5 Stated Positively - whoever keeps His teachings experiences
 the love of God and experiences the "perfection" He died to
 give us.

THE LOVE OF GOD IS PERFECTED IN OBEDIENT CHRISTIANS.
(bring to completion; bring to its goal)

God's love for the believer is wonderful at the point of
salvation, 3:1,
but His goal is not reached until conformity to the
Son is accomplished.

Being "in Him" refers to the "abiding",
teacher/disciple relationship Jn 15:1-8

Vs 6 To ABIDE IN CHRIST (claims this) can be verified by a
 CHRIST-LIKE LIFESTYLE Jn 15:4-7

What is John saying? What does he mean? vs 7-11

vs 7 The Old Commandment had from the beginning of their
 Christian experience has not changed.
 Jn 13:34-35

(There has not been "new revelation" given to special, chosen teachers that trump what Jesus taught "in the beginning".)

GOD'S MESSAGE IS THE SAME!

Vs 8 From another point of view - the Old Commandment has taken on
NEW MEANING

1. because He who was with us is now in us

Jn 14:15-18

2. the darkness is passing away - the prior age has become a new age

2 Cor 3:4-18

3. the true light is already shining

Gal 3:21-29

and we await its total completion

2 Pet 3:13-14

Vs 9 He who says...and hates his brother
(a believer toward another believer - or -
a non-believer toward a believer)

IS NOT WALKING IN THE LIGHT

1 Jn 1:6-7; 4:20 - 5:1

In short: Some believers have feelings of animosity toward their fellow believers.

To claim that this behavior is walking in the light in fellowship with God - is not true.

HE IS WALKING WHERE GOD - IS NOT!

Vs 10 By contrast: the believer who loves his brother:

1. abides in that light

2. causes no one to stumble as they watch him.
doesn't become a snare or a trap

3. is walking as He (Christ) walked 1Jn 2:6

Vs 11 A Christian who hates another believer:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. has lost touch with the True Light | 1Jn 2:8 |
| 2. has embraced the darkness, which
is passing away | 1Jn 2:8 |
| 3. has lost his way | |
| 4. has blinded his own eyes so that he can
no longer see the truths | |

1Jn 1:3 we proclaim to you...that you may have fellowship...
 1:4 we write so that our joy may be made complete
 2:12-14 I am writing because...you possess spiritual assets

QUESTIONS: Why the three references? why the order?

little children
 fathers
 young men
 children

Is spiritual growth implied?

Do all the titles refer to the entire readership
 from various points of view?

1. the whole readership is addressed as "little children"
 2:1, 18, 28, 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21
2. In 2:18 all the readers would be included.

From these verses what can be said about all the readers?

- Vs 12
1. all "little children" have had their sins forgiven
 - a. This forgiveness has been granted on the
 effectiveness of Christ's Name
 3:23; 5:13; 2:2; Jn 1:12 and Jn 3:18
 - b. "your" is added by the translators!
 Literally "because sins have been forgiven." 2 Cor 5:14-21
 They have had the experience of forgiveness!

NOTE: If this epistle is a test to see if its readers are saved, then verse 12
 would not be stated.

Vs 13

1. "fathers" - know Him - seasoned experience
2. "children" - you have come to know Him - come to the point where you keep the Lord's commandments.
1Jn 2:3-4

John's readers constitute a relatively mature group of believers.
3. "from the beginning" - a reference to the eternality of the One whom the readers know; One who began all things.
Jn 1:1-2
4. "young men" - strong; the Word of God abides in you; over come the evil one 1Jn 2:10-27

NOTE: As children (forgiven) as fathers (possess knowledge) renders them prepared to do battle with the wicked one.

In fact, all of them have already done battle 2 Cor 4:3-6

And since the effects of new birth can never be reversed Rom 8:38-39 by Satan.

Vs 14

"I am writing" becomes "I have written"
He repeats what he has written to the fathers.
He amplifies that which he says to the young men.

little children your sins are forgiven
for His Name's sake

fathers, because you know Him
who has been from the beginning

young men you have overcome the evil one
you are strong
the Word of God abides in you
you have overcome the evil one

children, you know the Father

minimum experience becomes more advanced experience

1. Those who know the Father come to know the Father

2. Those who have overcome the evil one, overcome the evil one

Our knowledge gains depth.

Jn's readers are ready to hear about and move on with that which He is about to warn them.

Vs 15-27 Two enemies John's readers will confront:
 1. the world vs 15-17 (world system; age)

 2. antichrists vs 18-27; 1 Jn4:3-5

Vs 15 Every believer needs this warning 1 Cor 10:12.
Christians must not "love the world" or its components.
We can think we do not live the world when, in fact, we
are deeply attracted to one of its sinful aspects: for
example: immorality has been overcome while a deep
drive to acquire remains.

"The love of the Father" is not operational in him.
Our attitude toward the world is a reflection of our love for
God or lack of love for Him; not His love in or of us.

Vs 16 The components of the world we are not to love
All of it whose components can be reduced to one word
"lust" with 3 classifications:
flesh- that which appeals to the sinful heart and excess.

eyes - that which is visually appealing but not properly ours
to desire or obtain
covetousness

pride of life - the main display of earthly life - possessions or
accomplishments.

None of these elements have their source in God

NOTE: The physical world is "of God" who created it; the world as a moral system is not.
All that is in the world bears the taint of wickedness with which God has nothing to do. 1Jn1:5

Vs 17

"The world" is transient.
When it no longer exists, none of its sinful experiences will continue to exist either.

The obedient person, himself, abides forever.
The abiding aspect of life is the eternal identity and it will outlast the present world system

1Jn 2:6 (the one who walks as He walked does the will of God)
Thus 1Jn 4:17 (1Cor 3:11-15; 2Cor 5:10)
See James 2:21-23 with John 15:14-15

The Christians' identity in eternity will be determined by obedience to God in time.
Since all lives of obedience are unique in their particulars, each eternal "identity" will be as unique!

Resisting the anti-christs. verses 18-27

Vs 18

Not only is the world passing away (and all that we are "accustomed to" and comfortable with"), but also

It is the last hour - lasted for almost 2,000 years so far
period of time following God's final Word through the
consummation of this present evil age

John's readers have heard that "antichrist" will arise at the conclusion of this "age":

1. There is more to this age than its seven year conclusion
2. Even now - 60AD - many antichrists have arisen 1Jn 4:1
3. They are "forerunners" of the "supreme" antichrist
4. Their message - 1Jn 4:2-3
5. These conditions present assure us that we are living in

the "last hour".

NOTE: Today - 2010 - there are many antichrists promoting this false teaching in the church of Christ.

Vs 19 These false teachers were at one time recognized as part of the leadership of the true church.

These are the teachers who moved on beyond the Apostolic teaching (Scriptures).

They would not have left the true teaching if they were of the true faith. Time allowed them to be exposed for who they really were.

NOTE: When a teacher moves beyond "that which has been written" it is shown that they ALL are not a part of the ministry of the Apostolic group.

The church is oppressed with many such antichrists.

Vs 20 The recipients of this letter were spiritually advanced Christians vs 13-14. They all know!

They all have an anointing from the Holy One (Spirit)
1Jn 2:27; Jn 14:26; 16:7-15; Eph 1:13-14

Galatians - People so foolish to follow after such false teachers!

Vs 21 They are not ignorant of the truth.
That which they received in the beginning is sufficient for all the remaining time of their life! 1Jn2:7; 1Cor 15:1-5

John is not writing to give them a test by which they can know if they are of the truth; he knows that they are; he simply wants them to continue in that which they received at the beginning.

Any teaching that goes beyond the Gospel is a lie and contains no truth at all.

Vs 22 Who is the antichrist in your midst?
Who is the liar?
Who is the false teacher?
1. the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ

2. the one who denies the Father and the Son Jn 5:23

Vs 23 A Simple Truth
deny the Son - you do not have the Father
confess the Son - have the Father also

Its about the Son - Who do you say that He is?
Jn 20:30-31; 1Jn 5:11-13

SUMMARY

Believing that Jesus is the Christ means to believe He is the One who guarantees eternal life to the believer.

This was the Father's plan.

Deny it and you reject the Father.

Vs 24 As for you - reader of this letter.
Let what you were told in the beginning be sufficient for you.
You don't need to grow into deeper truths.
Let this truth "abide" in you.

Key: if you let the Word which you have had from the beginning abide in you, you will abide in both the Father and the Son.

The "abiding life" is the life lived by a disciple who keeps the Lord's teachings and is marked by love for the brethren.

Vs 25 "He" - can refer to either the Father or the Son.

The promise is "eternal life".
This is the center of the subject!
Who can give life?
Without this "life" all the other teaching is meaningless!
1Cor 15:12-19

Vs 26 What was the deception which they were attempting to
"sow" in the church?
What you received in the beginning was not enough!
Let me show you.....

Vs 27 As for you
1. The anointing which you received from Him (not them)
 abides in you. 1Jn5:10

2. You have no need for these "enlightened teachers"
 to bring you on to perfection.

3. If you need teaching, the Holy Spirit will teach you -
 using the original document you received in the
 beginning - the Bible

4. What is truth?

5. Just as His ministry has taught you - you abide in Him
 and He will continue to bring you up

SUMMARY:

John's readers are competent in the truth and need only to hold fast to what they already know in order to enjoy the "abiding life".

Verse 28 in the theme verse of the Epistle. It forms the foundations for what follows.

Vs 28 The Theme of the Epistle
 "abide in Him" (continuous action)

 fellowship - with us; with the Father; with His Son, Jesus Christ
 1Jn 1:3 and "joy made complete" 1 Jn 1:4 requires "abiding"
 (continuous action)

 The word "abide" occurs 112 times in the New Testament.
 66 times, John is the writer, using the term:
 40 times in his gospel
 23 times in 1 John (10 times in 2:6-27)
 3 times in 2 John

 The abiding life is the key to the Christian life!
 It is the foundation for being confident before Christ at His

Coming. Rev 1:12-18

As to confidence: 1Jn3:21; 4:17; 5:14

Right living will produce a "boldness of speech" when that day comes. (Not what does He see or feel, but what you will feel)

NOTE: There is a negative side -

Should a believer fail to abide in Him - shame will be the experience on that day - might be the basis for the tears being wiped away!

Vs 29 "born of Him" 1Jn 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18

When the recipient of this letter sees a person doing right righteousness exhibited they can be sure that the person who exhibits it is a child of God- (produced by Him in them).

(vs 29 cont)

The converse of John's statement does not follow - "that everyone who is born of God does righteousness, proving they are born again. 1Jn1:6,8; 2:1 1Cor 11 and Jn 5

The "new birth" is manifested in the actions of believers:

1. the only visible evidence
2. Jn 15:1-11
3. the only proof of discipleship Jn 15:8
4. this is what will draw people to Christ Jn 17:17-2

CHAPTER THREE

- Vs 1 Contemplate the greatness of the Divine Love which the Father has lavished on us - that we should be called "children of God"
- "and such we are" - not in the better manuscripts
- called - that which one is - 1Cor 1:2
- Believers are called "children of God" because they are
- An appreciation of this reality is "lost" on the world.
They do not recognize believers as God's children - in fact they see them as arrogant for claiming such a fact.
- NOTE: In all things pertaining to God - believers and un-believers do not see things the same way. They live in different worlds!
- Vs 2 Though we are now children of God, there is no physical evidence of this, which an eye can see.
The physical changes in Christians await the coming of Christ.
- We do know the day when our changes will become visible:
1 Cor 15:51-54; Phil 3:20-21
These "changes" will be the result of "seeing Him just as He is".
(This ability to "see Him" must wait until that future date also.)
- Vs 3 Every one (not everyone) who is fixed on this future day, purifies himself.
Taking our eyes off this day will impact our lifestyle.
Such a focus results in the believer looking more and more Christlike.
- Vs 4 In contrast: the opposite of light is darkness!
The opposite action of purifying oneself - is - to practice sin - or lawlessness!
All sin finds its source in lawlessness.
Failure to be controlled
"In" uncontrol

Vs 5-6

When He came into the world, one of His objectives was the removal of sin from our lives.

A reasonable application to this truth is that one who is "abiding" in Him would appear as He appears.

In Him there is no sin! Rom 6:1-14

Sin is a product of ignorance and blindness toward God - "no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him"

Sin is never the product of seeing and knowing God.

Sin is never a part of the experience of abiding in Christ.

No one who is abiding (present tense) in Him, sins.

Insofar as God is experienced by a believer, that experience is sinless.

Sin does not flow from the "new nature" Rom 7:14-25

Vs 7-8

Do not be deceived by the anti-christs.

Do not be led astray by their false teachings.

1. righteousness finds its source in Him
2. sin finds its source in the devil.

All sin of whatever kind or degree, is Satanic in nature

a. the devil has been sinning from the beginning Jn 8:44

b. to take part in sin is to take part in his activity

At the same time it is opposing the work of the Son of God who came to put an end to that activity (the devil's work).

Believers are to overcome the evil one and not to participate in what he is.

Vs 9

One who is born of God does not sin

1Jn 1:13; 2Pet 1:4

Because

God's seed remains in Him.
He cannot sin because he has been born of God.
The child partakes of the nature of his parent.
The thought is not, a sinless parent begets a child who
only sins a little.
No sin is the product of the believer's regenerate nature.
God's seed, the child of God, does not sin.
The new man is an absolutely perfect new creation.
Sin never springs from the new man; it always finds its
source in the satanic realm.
It never springs from what a christian is, but rather, from
who a christian was before he became a christian.

Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:3-17

- Vs 10a The two natures are manifested
An unsaved person can display his true nature through sin;
A child of God cannot.
When a christian sins, he conceals who he really is.
- Vs 10b-23 Love of...is the other leg on which John's teaching stands.
- Vs 10 GODLY LOVE (opposite of lust 2:15-17)
is produced in a human - by God
A spiritually dead person is incapable of loving, other than lust.
Eph 2:1-3
- The source of the action of love in a person is definable:
a. God
b. flesh and the devil
- A person who does not love his brother - does not find the "source"
of that action in God.
What he is doing - is not of God!
The action can never be traced to God; it is always traced
to the devil. 3:8; 3 Jn 11
- Love is the appropriate expression of the regenerate life.

Vs 11-12 John is speaking to believers "the message which you have heard from the beginning".

What is love? 1 Corinthians 13

What love is not:

NOT the action Cain exhibited toward his brother, Abel
Cain murdered his brother - and in this action, he
was of the evil one.

The reason for this murder was Cain's jealous resentment
of his brother's superior righteousness.

Cain's hatred toward his brother may well have been
prompted by a feeling of guilt about his own life.

Application for us today: These kinds of reactions are
Satanic!

Vs 13 Such reactions of hatred are common.

NOTE: John is speaking to believers (brethren).

The world's hatred toward believers is the norm!

Believers' hatred toward other believers....go figure?

Vs 14 We know...we are living (abiding) in the "new life";
not abiding in death - when we are "expressing" love for the
brethren.

In short: Love for one's brothers is evidence that God's sphere
of life has been entered. Jn 13:35

Vs 15 There is no grey area: it is black and white!
Hatred of another believer is the spiritual equivalent of murder
Matt 5:21-22 just as
a lustful eye is the spiritual equivalent of adultery
Matt 5:28

hating = murder = abiding in death - not life

NOTE: John does not say that someone who hates his brother does
not possess eternal life; but rather - that he does not have it
abiding in him.

REVIEW 1 John! A Christian who fails to love his brother is
living in the same sphere that the world lives in. He can
make no real claim to be experiencing fellowship with God.
Rom 8:5-17

- Vs 16-18 What this "non-world" love is....
Vs 16 A murderer takes life - an abiding believer gives life!
 Jesus Christ demonstrated this truth.
 His action is intended to be a model for our behavior.
- Vs 17-18 Material possessions sustain life.
 We are to give (expecting no return) that others might live.
 (For many, it is easier to share God's words of life than it is to
 sustain other people's lives.)
 The true test of love is not one's verbal profession of it but is a
 willingness to become involved with actions.
- Vs 19 We shall know by this:
 1. has the world's goods - opens his heart - for him
 2. loves in deed and truth
 3. meets the needs of others by practical acts of love
 Know and Know and Know that we are participating
 (incorporating) experientially in the truth; are of God
 vs 10; belong to God vs 12
- Shall assure our heart before Him - vs 20, even at a time
 when our heart condemns us Jn 21:17
- NOTE: Life is never "we are all good" or "all bad".
- A spiritually sensitive believer is aware of
 failings even when successes are our focus.
- Encouragement can be experienced even at a time
 when our heart is troubled for who we have been
 and what we have done.
- Vs 21 Beloved - believers - even when heart condemnation exists
 doing right; experiencing no condemnation produces
 confidence before God
- Vs 22 and
 if our heart does not condemn us, i.e. we keep his commandments
 and do the things that are pleasing in His sight (more than law
 observance), whatever we ask, we receive from Him

NOTE: There is more than one reality that affects our "confidence before God".

1 Jn 2:28 1 Jn 4:17; 5:14

Vs 23

The commandments (plural) in verse 22 are summed up in one Great Commandment which has two parts:

1. believe (in) the Name Jn 16:24
2. love one another

This is not new - He commanded it.
Jn 13:34-35; 15:12-17; 1Jn 2:6-11

Vs 24

The Holy Spirit's part in this process

Overview: We keep His commandments by:

1. abiding in Him
2. He in us
3. by the Spirit given to us

How we live matters. 1Jn 2:3; 3:23; 5:2-3

An abiding life matters. Jn 15:4-5,7

The Holy Spirit is central to the thought. 1Jn4:13

Short Summary: A believer can verify that God lives in him
by seeing the operation of God's Spirit in
his life.

Chapter 4 will expand the Holy Spirit's part in creating the
"Normal Christian Life".

CHAPTER FOUR

Vs 1-3 The Spirit of God must be distinguished from false spirits.
This is necessary because many false prophets, inspired by
false spirits, have gone into the world.

The key to testing a spirit to see if it is false or true is to test
their attitude toward the incarnate Person of Jesus Christ.

Denying the Incarnation (its true significance) exposes the
spirit of antichrist.

1Jn 2:18-27; 2Jn 7

Vs 4-6 You are from God
The Holy Spirit indwells you
You overcome them

They, being a part of the world system....speak from the viewpoint
of the world and they get a good hearing from the world.

NOTE: Satanically inspired thought has a special appeal to
worldly minds.

People from God listen to the Apostles.

You - the readers

They - the antichrists

We - the apostles

The Apostolic Word is contained in the Bible.

The Bible is the means by which the Holy Spirit of truth and
the spirits of falsehood can be effectively
distinguished.

True Christianity is Bible-centered Christianity!

Vs 7 A person cannot exercise the love of God without TWO THINGS
being true of them:

1. born of God - a regenerate nature

2. knows God - fellowship with God

This kind of love is the product of
the indwelling Spirit Gal 15:22-25
a confession of the incarnate person of Christ 1Jn 4:2
and
exercising the love of God
demonstrating that the individual is from God 1Jn 4:4

Being "Born of God" carries with it a number of realities:
1Jn 2:29; 3:9; 5:1,4,18

The absence of love is evidence that a person does not know God
(which is part of the human experience);
more so than "proving" a person is unsaved (only God knows).

Vs 8

Stated in the Negative
Because "God is love", a person cannot be "walking with Him" and
also love themselves.

SUMMARY: Being in God's presence causes us to reflect light and
extend Godly love. To remain out of fellowship with Him makes us
look like "mere man".

Vs 9

God's supreme demonstration of love manifested in BELIEVERS
only - Rom 9:22-24

1. God so loved the world Jn 3:26-17; 2Cor 5:14-21
2. God has been satisfied by means of what He has done
1Jn 2:2; Rom 3:21-26
3. That love of God becomes manifest only when a
human receives it

Only begotten (unique; one of a kind) Son
Jn 1:14,18; 3:16
God did it so that we believers might live
Eph 1:4; Jn 6:37-40,44

Vs 10

Expansion of what John has just said in verse 9

We are to understand the level of love that God exercised

"toward us".

Talk About Love:

He loved us - made us the object of His love

Rom 9

He sent His Son - the solution for our sins

Rom 3

When we were not loving Him

Rom 5:6-8,10

Vs 11 Application for us - Beloved - objects of His love
 understand?

Vs 12 The Triune God has never been seen?
(Jn 1:18 John has stated this before.)
Until? Col 1:19; 2:9
Heb 1:3 In what way is verse 12 true?

If we love one another:

1. God abides in us

2. His love is perfected in us Heb5:8-9; 1Jn 2:5; 4:17

Vs 13 By this we know - we in Him_He in us
 because we possess His Spirit 1Jn 3:24
When a believer loves, keeps His commandments - he is drawing
 that from God's Spirit Rom 5:5

In Short: A believer's Spirit-led obedience becomes the evidence
 that he is enjoying the mutual abiding relationship with
God

Vs 14 We - Apostolic Group - as in 1Jn 1:1-4
 John's readers included

have beheld the One who can't be beheld - vs12

bear witness - Jn 17:6-8,20

the Father sent the Son to be Savior

world - limited vs unlimited

Vs 15 Making this profession (from the heart) says something
 about the person making it! 1Jn 4:2

Vs 16

We have come:

1. to know

2. and have believed the love God has for us
(faith in that love)



1 JOHN CHAPTER FOUR

Vs 17

"By this" refers back to verse 16

Let Him find us loving when He comes for us.

The judgment that awaits us 1Cor3:12-15; 2Cor 5:10

Our "emotional state" when He arrives to take us to that judgment.

The extent of our confidence will be directly proportional to
"Where we as He was in the world?"

1Jn 2:28; 3:21

Will God approve the quality of our life?

How do we handle His commandments (teachings)?

Do we love?

How "perfected" were we? 1Jn 2:5; 4:12

Vs 18

If a believer looks forward with fear to the Judgment Seat of Christ they must not have been made "perfect" while there is still time

Vs 19

A believer loves because

A believer who loves is facing his judge

1. whom he loves

2. who loves him

Vs 20-21

Sums Up the Thought

Anyone who claims to love God, yet hates his brother makes a false claim - he is a liar!

NOTE: John is not shy about using the word "liar".

1 Jn 10; 2:4,22: 40; 5:10

Love for the unseen God can only be concretely expressed by love for one's visible Christian brother.

THIS COMMAND HAS STOOD FROM THE BEGINNING. 1 Jn3:23-24

CHAPTER FIVE

Vs 1 With the teachings of 1 Jn 4:7-21, one might ask
"and who is my brother?"

The ANSWER: "everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ
is your brother!"
THEY ARE "BORN OF GOD"!

REMEMBER: Other signs that this birth has occurred:
1Jn4:7; 5:4,18

Whatever the differences among believers, they
should be an object of love to the believer.

NOTE: This love does not spring from something
loveable in the person himself; but from
the fact that we all share a common
Father.

To love the Father always contains within it, a love for the
Father's other children.

Vs 2 Another Question might be asked
"What does 'to love' mean?"

A person who obeys God's commands is one who is doing what
is right, both toward God and toward fellow believers.

Vs 3 FOR this is the Love of God:
1. We keep His commandments

2. His commandments are not burdensome
Matt 11:30

Vs 4 For whatever (all that is) is born of God
1. overcomes the world

This victory is the product of our faith
The world 2 Cor 4:3-4; Eph 2:1-3 no longer
controls us.

We have been set free.
We were blind but now we see.

Vs 5 The Faith which saves us has an object - JESUS, THE SON OF GOD
We believe this.

IT IS NOT FAITH THAT SAVES; IT IS JESUS, WHO SAVES

His commandments are not burdensome because they are not obeyed for salvation. They are the natural outflow of a soul that has been saved.

Vs 6 Water - Baptism Matt 3:13-17

Blood - Crucifixion

John is probably refuting a false teaching of the time, which taught that the Spirit came at Christ's baptism but left Him before the crucifixion.

The statement here in First John makes it clear that Christ's entire ministry, start to finish, involved the Divine Person.

Vs 7-8 The witness
 1. The Water Matt 3:17

 2. The Blood Matt 2:39-44

 3. The Spirit Jn 14:25-26

Vs 9 If we receive the witness of men - accepted
 Deut 19:15

The witness of God is Greater:
 At His Baptism

 At His Transfiguration

 By His Spirit

1. Through His Apostles - written Word

2. Through those that heard them - Jn 17:20

3. Through miracles - Heb 2:3-4

HAS GOD NOT BORN WITNESS? GOD'S FOCUS IS JESUS!

Vs 10 To the one who believes this witness - is internalized
The testimony is from God.
Man only has two options: BELIEVE IT/REJECT IT

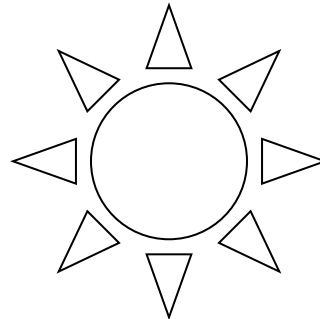
Vs 11-12 The witness of God (The Message - that which must be
responded to) Believe it or Reject it.

1. God has given us eternal life

2. Life - in His Son

3. Have the Son - Have Life

No Son - No life (do not have the Son)



Vs 13 That which has been written - Holy Spirit Inspired,
Apostolic Witness
Shared by believers

BELIEVE - 1 Cor 15:1-8 - KNOW

John has written these things so that his believing readers
would know that they have Eternal Life.

NOTE: This is not the first time that John has interjected a
purpose behind what he is writing. 1Jn 2:1,26
In each case the immediate context is the focus.

Vs 14-15 CONTEXT - Loving the brethren - keeping His commandments
This may not be a "wide open" promise.

Vs 16 Any sin - if continued in long enough - is a threat to a Christian's

