

# ***BE the Church – series***

## ***“Get Ready” - sermon***

An Introduction to

## ***The Book of 1 John***

1, 2, 3, 4, 5... if you can count to 5....

- 1 Passion – the glory of God thru the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- 2 Priorities:
  - A. DEFINE the one TRUE Church
  - B. DEFEND the one TRUE Church
- 3 Pillars:
  - A. TRUTH
  - B. LOVE
  - C. Faithful-OBEDIENCE
- 4 Purposes:
  - A. Promote joy via “koinonia”
  - B. Prevent sin
  - C. Protect against false teachers
  - D. Provide assurance
- 5 Pragmatic Proofs:
  - A. 1 John 1:5ff
  - B. 1 John 2:2-11
  - C. 1 John 3:7-10, & 14-15
  - D. 1 John 4:4-8, & 13-15
  - E. 1 John 5: 18-20

**1 John 1:1-4** = *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— 2and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship (“koinonia”) with us; and indeed our fellowship (“koinonia”) is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (Qt: Jesus is & was God in the flesh... AND God in focus.)4These things we write, so that your/our joy may be made complete.*

## **CONTEXT:** (Who, What, Where, When, Why, & How)

- The Greco-Roman world in the late first century...
  - Cultural, Philosophical, Spiritual change...
  - Religious syncretism & inclusivism reigned...
  - Turkey = intersection/land-bridge between Europe & Asia
  - **Quote:** Donald W. Burdick (*The Letters of John*)

*“Apart from the Judaeo-Christian sphere, the world was religiously inclusivistic. There was always room for a new religion, provided of course that it was not of an exclusive nature. Syncretism, however, did not merely express itself in a mood of tolerance toward other faiths. Its characteristic expression was in the combination of various ideas and beliefs from different sources to form new or aberrant religions. This was the age of the developing mystery religions, the age of the occult, the age of the proliferation of Gnostic sects.*

- Biblical/Theological Context:
  - Light in the darkness:
    - Matthew 5:14 =
    - Philippians 2:15 =
  - Shepherds protect against the wolves & their infiltrating followers:
    - Matthew 7:15
    - Acts 20:29
    - 2 Corinthians 11:26
    - Galatians 2:4
  - Spiritual warfare was raging there & then... like here & now
    - Ephesians 6:12

- Jude 3
- NOTE: see parallel of old Caleb & now old John...
- Damage was already being done...
  - Churches were being decimated by division
  - \*\*\* 1 John 2:19
  - \*\*\* Revelation 2 & 3
  - \*\*\* Contrast with John 17:21

--- The pre-Gnostics... “viewed themselves as the spiritual elites, who alone had true spiritual knowledge. Gnostics scorned the unenlightened, ignorant people. These detractors were arrogant, unholy, and loveless. Their behavior did not reflect higher knowledge of God, but rather proved that they did not know Him at all – a truth that John stated plainly & repeatedly:

- **1 John 2:9** = *Whoever says he is in the Light and hates his brother is still in darkness.*
- **1 John 3:10** = *By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*
- **1 John 3:14-15** = *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. [15](#)Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*
- **1 John 4:8** = *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*
- **1 John 4:20-21** = *If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. [21](#)And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*
  - \*\*\* Compare with John 17:21
  - \*\*\* See Revelation 2-3...

- \*\*\* 5 of 7 churches were rebuked for worldliness & compromise after tolerating false teaching/teachers
- \*\*\* Only Smyrna & Philadelphia were commended... and both were not considered worldly successes

**Quote:** “There is nothing tentative or apologetic about 1 John. The apostle John does not hesitate to call certain classes of people liars, deceivers, or antichrists. He supplies tests by which everybody can be sorted into one or other of two categories. According to their relation to his tests they either have God or have not; know God or do not; have been born of God or have not; have life or abide in death; walk in the darkness or in the light; are children of God or children of the devil. This dogmatic authority of the writer is seen particularly in his statements and in his commands.” - **John Stott**

## **1 John is...**

***Polemical*** (arguing against the false teachers/teaching)

***Positive*** (affirming and assuring the true Christians)

Together... **Polemical + Positive = Pastoral**

“Like any (God-honoring) pastor, John could not stand idly by when his people were being assaulted by the satanic lies of false teachers. Responding to the serious crisis threatening the churches under his care, the apostle sent them this letter to help check the deadly plague. “

- **John MacArthur**

First John spirals thru the ever-deepening foundational roles of truth, obedience, and love in the heart of genuine Christianity & real-deal Christians. – JDP

Most believe John wrote from Ephesus late in life, before Patmos...  
80% of First John speaks to issues from John's Gospel (follow up)

1 John ***Defines*** authentic Christianity

1 John ***Describes*** authentic Christianity

# 1 John *Defends* authentic Christianity

## **John: The AUTHOR**

John was a disciple of John the Baptist... (picture it!)

John was called a “son of thunder” by Jesus...

John was one who asked Jesus about calling down destruction from heaven on a Samaritan town that did not show Jesus proper respect...

John was one of the inner (3 – Peter, James) – amongst the closest to Jesus...

John was the “disciple Jesus loved”

John was used by God to write:

- The Gospel of John
- 1, 2, 3 John
- Revelation

## **Introduction:**

Who is Jesus? At the heart of eternity (and the very definition of genuine Christianity), this question must be answered... Moreover, what someone believes (backed up by how they behave), reveals their individual answer to the question of all questions... Think about some of the obvious & most common answers:

- A. Jesus was “good man”
- B. Jesus was a “prophet”
- C. Jesus was religious “teacher”

1 John reveals & reports Jesus to be:

- Light (purity & holiness)
  - In a world that is dark... God is Light.
- Love
  - In a world that hates... God is Love.
- Life
  - In a dead & dying world... God is Life.

“John’s first letter addresses a setting in which some people in the local church had departed the fellowship (2:19), apparently because their doctrine, ethics, devotion, or some combination of these conflicted with those of the church. John wrote in part to stabilize the situation... He extolled love and emphasized the necessity for belief to be matched by action. A personal relationship with Christ is the foundation of the Christian life, and out from this grows obedience to divine commands. True faith, proactive ethics, fervent love for God & people – most of the epistle revolves around one or more of these three emphases as the author instructed, admonished, and encouraged his readers.” - Holman Christian Study Bible

**Koinonia** (contrast Church vs American Legion... God is the glue!)

**1 John 1:3** = *what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship (“koinonia”) with us; and indeed our fellowship (“koinonia”) is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

1 John \_\_\_\_\_ both “Right BELIEF” AND “Righteous BEHAVIOR.” - JDP

A circular letter to the region’s churches... like Revelation 2-3...

John left for Ephesus just prior to A.D. 70 (destruction of Jerusalem)

John explains in simple, straightforward language what it means to have fellowship (“koinonia”) with God and His children.

**John’s letter is a model for us to use  
as we combat modern heresies.**

NOTE: the literary structure of 1 John (cyclical / repetitive vs. linear & singular).

“The forceful simplicity of its sentences, the note of finality behind its utterances, the marvelous blending of gentle love and deep-cutting sternness of its contents, and the majesty of its ungarnished thoughts have made 1 John a favorite with Christians everywhere. The plainness of language makes it intelligible to the simplest saint, while the profundity of its truths challenges the most accomplished scholar. Its grand theological revelations and its unwavering ethical demands have left their enduring impact upon the thought and life of the Christian Church. First John is indeed a singular, irreplaceable gem among the books of the New Testament.” - **D.E. Hiebert**

“1 John shows that humanity can be divided, ultimately, into ONLY two groups... the children of God & the children of the devil (3:10). No other classification is possible.” - **New American Standard Commentary**

**1 John 3:10** = *“By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”* - **ESV**

First John... “from start to finish John writes with insight, consistency, intensity, and depth. Yet his language is for the most part simple and his vocabulary modest. Line for line there are few biblical writings that surpass 1 John in the imposing demands made on the reader...” - **ESV Study Bible**

“1 John... calls readers back to the **(3) basics of Christian life:**

1. **True doctrine**
2. **Obedient living**
3. **Fervent devotion**

1 John urges readers to refine their theological understanding, sharpen their ethical rigor, and heighten their devotional intensity. That is, they must grow in faith, obedience, and love. Yet, the letter is not a list of dos and don'ts. It is rather, a manifesto of 'Done!' - Jesus' words 'It is finished' comes to mind.” - **ESV Study Bible**

**(4) Internal “PURPOSE” Statements within 1 John:**

1. “We write this to make our/your joy complete.” (1:4)

**1 John 1:4** = *“These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.”*

\*\*\* (To **PROMOTE** true fellowship & joy in the children of God)

2. “I write this to you so that you will not sin.” (2:1)

**1 John 2:1** = *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;*

\*\*\* (To **PREVENT** the child of God from committing sin)

3. “I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.” (2:26)

**1 John 2:26** = *I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you / lead you astray.*

\*\*\* (To **PROTECT** the children of God from the false teachers)

4. “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life.” (5:13)

**1 John 5:13** = *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life*

\*\*\* (To **PROVIDE** assurance of salvation for the child of God)

➤ 5:13 is the book’s overarching purpose statement

➤ NOTE: John 20:31 & 1 John 5:13 are sister verse..

--- **John 20:31** is ***Christologically evangelistic***  
*“these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

--- **1 John 5:13** is ***Christologically assuring***  
*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life*

## **Historical Context:**

John wrote this letter to a group of churches in crisis – churches being attacked by false teaching (2:18-28; 4:1-6; 5:6-7).



## **1 John 2:18-28 = Warning Concerning Antichrists**

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 20But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. c 21I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 24Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

26I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

**(Children of God)** 28And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

## **1 John 4:1-6 = Test the Spirits**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is

*the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. **4**Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. **5**They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. **6**We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

### **1 John 5:6-8 = Testimony Concerning the Son of God**

*This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. **7**For there are three that testify: **8**the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.*

Some people who had once been affiliated with the Christian community had adopted heretical doctrine... and left the Church (2:19). In response, John wrote this letter with two (2) primary objectives:

**1 John 2:19** = *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*

- **Combat propaganda of false teachers**
  - They were trying to redefine “Church” (2:19)
  - Evidently, after their departure they continued to spread their teachings to those who remained in the Johannine churches...
  - The false teachers went so far as to send out itinerant teachers/missionaries who moved among the churches with the goal of converting true believers to their false beliefs:
    - **2:26** = *I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.*

--- 4:1-3 = Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

- **Reassure true, biblical believers**

1 John 5:12-13 = Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- **5:12 = Christ saves lives eternal!**
- **5:13 = Christ changes lives eternal!**
- Specific “tests” to help re-assure... NOTE: “tests” BOTH affirm & deny...

### **Testing/Authenticating Passages:**

**1 John 1:5 – 2:2 = Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness**

5This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. 6If we claim to have

fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all**b** sin.

8If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.

*1My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

### **1 John 2:3-11 = Love and Hatred for Fellow Believers**

3We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5But if anyone obeys his word, love for God**a** is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6Whoever claims to live in him must live/walk as Jesus did.

*7Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.*

9Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister**b** is still in the darkness. 10Anyone who loves their brother and sister**c** lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the

darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

**1 John 3:7-10** = **7**Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 9No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

**1 John 3:14-15** = **14**We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

**1 John 4:4-8** = **4**You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

**7**Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is

love.

**1 John 4:13-15** = 13This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

**1 John 5:13** = I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

**1 John 5:18-20** = We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 19We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 20We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true by being in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

John Argues Against the False Teacher's Professed Faith:

1. ***Doctrinally*** (A ***New Theology***)
  - Them: Jesus is "limited" & simplified
  - 1 John: Jesus is LORD & Savior
  
2. ***Morally*** (A ***New Morality***)
  - Them: Sin is alright & not disruptive
  - 1 John: Sin separates the sinner from the Savior
  
3. ***Socially*** (A ***New Spirituality***)

- Them: Active, agape-Love is unnecessary  
\*\*\* Love can be “known”
- 1 John: Active, agape-Love is a necessity  
\*\*\* Love MUST be SHOWN!

**Doctrinally**, the false teachers were compromising the person & work of Jesus Christ (refusing to confess Jesus as the Christ – 2:22; and denying that the Son had come in the flesh – 4:2-3).

**1 John 2:22** = *Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.*

\*\*\* **“Christ”** = Greek for Hebrew **“Messiah”**

“Christ/Messiah” =

1. **LORD**
2. **Savior**

**Therefore...** to deny the Lordship of Christ (and/or the Saving capacity of Christ’s crucifixion & resurrection), is to deny the deity of Jesus...

**Thus...** when anyone denies the full Christology of Jesus (as either Lord or Savior – thru their lips OR their lives), they are specifically identified AND addressed in 1 John 2:22.

\*\*\* **Add Jude 3 & Titus 1:11 for context!**

**1 John 4:2-3** = *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh*

*is from God, <sup>3</sup>but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

- Gnosticism (the early stages)
- NOTE: link to contemporary denial of His Lordship
- Also: to minimize the life of Christ is to minimize His death (2:2 & 4:10). If He is unworthy of Lordship, He is incapable of being Savior.

**1 John 4:10** = *This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

## **Theology in 1 John:**

### **A. Doctrine of God**

- “God is light” (1:5)
- “God is love” (4:8) - 1 John offers one of the Bible’s sharpest contrast between the One to be worshipped, His worshippers (a.k.a. true Christians), and the opposing world, the flesh, & the devil. - JDP
- God is revealed as the Father of Jesus Christ (1:2-3; 2:22-24; 4:14)
- To love the Son is to love the Father (5:1)

### **B. Doctrine of Sin**

- The devil is the source of sin (for he has “sinned from the beginning” – 1 John 3:8 & 3:12).
- The devil has permeated the whole world (5:19)
- Every person is a sinner who sins (1 John 1:8 & 10)
- Jesus was a propitiation for the “whole world” of believers (2:1-2)
- 1 John describes sin as:
  - “Darkness” (1:5-7)
  - “Lawlessness / Rebellion” (3:4)
  - “Unrighteousness” (5:17)



### C. **Doctrine of Christ**

- 1 John presents Jesus as the God/man...
  - 1:1-3 (no doubts of Christ's uniqueness)
  - 4:1-3 (this truth is foundational to the faith!)
  - **1***Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2**By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3**and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*
- 21 times Jesus is called the "Son" in 1 John...
- 1 John 1:1-2 AND John 1:1-2 marry & parallel
- Jesus is the "true God and eternal life" (5:20)
- Jesus is sinless (3:5)
- Jesus atoned for sins (2:2; 4:10)
- Jesus destroyed the devil's work (3:8)
- Jesus' death on the cross:
  - accomplished the gospel (5:6)
  - demonstrated the Father's love (4:9-11)

### D. **Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**

- The Spirit affirms God's truth (2:27 & 5:7)
- The Spirit is given to every believer (3:24)
- **The Spirit enables believers to overcome the world (4:4) =** *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*
- The Spirit helps the believer to discern false teaching and teachers because He is the "Spirit of Truth" (4:6) = *We are from God; he who*

*knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

- Trinity affirming texts: (2:27; 4:2, 4:13; 5:7)

## E. **Doctrine of Salvation**

- The redemptive work of Christ & His cross made salvation possible (2:2; 3:16; 4:10)
- To be BORN AGAIN as a CHILD of GOD, one MUST BELIEVE & RECEIVE the Son (Jesus, the Christ)... see 5:1; 3:1-2; 5:10-13)
- **1 John underscores the “already & not yet” promises of the gospel... 10 times 1 John speaks of “eternal life” in the present tense... Our blessing of eternal life starts now, but finds its completeness & fullness in our forthcoming home-coming to heaven.**
- In salvation, believers have God living/abiding in us and we in God (4:15-16) = *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. [16](#)We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

## F. **Doctrine of Eschatology**

- “This is the last hour” (2:18)
- Present tense “many anti-christs” are added to the expected future coming of THE Antichrist (2:18 & 4:3)
- John sees the current world already passing away (2:17), thus, Christ’s victory on the cross is already underway...
- **1 John 2:17-18 = *The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.***
- **[18](#)*Dear children, this is the last hour; & as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.***

- Christ's ultimate "day of judgment" is coming (4:17)
- True Christians will be confident & not fear (4:18)
- When Christ comes, we will be like Him (3:2)

**Morally**, the false teachers minimized sin (1:6-10).

**1 John 6:10** = *If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **8**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

- They claimed that it was possible to have fellowship with God regardless of one's behavior (1:6)
- John, in response, rejects that (2:3-4)
- **1 John 2:3-4** = *We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. **4**Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.*

**Socially**, the heretics failed because their spiritual pride resulted in a lack of love (2:9 & 2:11). Again, by contrast, John places the manifestation of love at the center of genuine Christ-like Christianity:

- **1 John 2:9 & 11** = *Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness... **11**But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know*

where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

- **1 John 3:14** = We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.
- **1 John 3:18** = Little children, let us not love in word & tongue but in action and in truth.
- **1 John 4:7-21** = **(God Is Love)**  
**7**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8**Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9**In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10**In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11**Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12**No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. **13**By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. **14**And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15**Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **16**So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **17**By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. **18**There is no fear in love, but

*perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. [19](#)We love because he first loved us. [20](#)If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. [21](#)And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

"John believes our faith in the Son of God must be orthodox. He believes faith cannot be separated from obedience and love. He sees faith expressing itself in righteous living. He is convinced that faith and assurance go together. Assured of a right standing before God through faith in His Son who provided atonement for sin, we love God and others; and with this hope in us we purify ourselves, just as He is pure (3:3)." - **New American Standard Commentary**

## **1 John's collective contribution to the Bible:**

"First John maps out the (3) main components of saving knowledge of God: (1) faith in Jesus Christ; (2) obedient response to God's commands; and (3) love for God and others from the heart. This epistle shows how Jesus expects His followers to honor Him in practical church life and wherever God calls His people to go and serve." - **Holman Christian Study Bible**