



Introduction

Lesson 1 (1 John 1:1-4)

We often assume second generation Christians have it easy. 1 John is a blunt reminder that nothing could be further from the truth. John encourages believers to keep fighting for the faith and to know for certain what is true and how we should live.

Outline

1 John is a series of individual lessons. These often form a subunit that flows into the next subunit, which flows into the next, and so forth.

Background

1 John was likely written between A.D. 85 and AD 95. Most of the apostles and founding leaders had died, and elderly John has some loving concerns for this new group. To combat false teaching (1 John 2:18-19), John instructs on crucial doctrines. To combat divisions, John identifies love for brothers as a sign of genuine conversion.

Purposes

John gives several purpose statements throughout his letter. See 1 John 1:4; 2:1, 26; and 5:13.

Themes

- _____
Any study of 1 John is going to find itself repeatedly coming across these contrasts.
 - _____ **and Hatred**
Truly loving God is incompatible with hating fellow Christians.



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- _____ **and Lies**
There are those who think that they can claim right doctrine while living in contradiction to it.
- **Life and Death**
Those who refuse to walk in the light, keep God's commands, and love the brothers will not have life.
- _____ **and Darkness**
Walking in the light as God is in the light requires following his commands rather than breaking them.
- **The Believer's _____**
There are several villains we must be on the lookout for.
 - **False Teachers**
This teaching denied the humanity of Christ (1 John 4:2), and John warns us to stay far away.
 - **The _____**
Even in first-century Rome, believers were tempted to love the world while forgetting that it was opposed to God.
 - **Satan**
John sees Satan as a real and active force to resisted.
- _____ **Knowledge**
John gives clear, objective standards whereby someone could know they are living rightly and following the right teaching.

In this short, simple letter John wrestles with the great issues we all face on a daily basis – How do I know that I'm truly God's child? What do I do when I sin? How can I be sure about what God's Word says?

In doing this, he lays out for all of us basic, key truths of Christianity that we can sometimes mistakenly think we've moved past. No matter how well we might know the faith, we always need to be brought back to the basics.

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