

I John – An Overview

January 7, 2024

I. Introduction

A. The Author's Note

(Five John 's in New Testament)

1. John the Baptist
2. John Mark
3. John the Father of Peter
4. John the relative of the High Priest
5. John the son of Zebedee

B. His Family and History

1. James was his brother, Acts 12
2. His father was a fisherman
3. He was a disciple of John the Baptist
4. He was part of the inner circle
5. The only Apostle at the crucifixion
6. He outlived all the Apostles
7. An Elder to Asia Minor
8. Exiled to Patmos

C. His Other Writings

1. John: Commencement of the Christian Life .
2. I, II, III John: Cultivation of the Christian Life
3. Revelation: Consummation of the Christian Life

D. I John

1. Its date: 85-90 A.D. after return from Patmos while in Ephesus
2. Its theme: Fellowship
3. Its purpose:
 - a. That your joy may be full – v. 1:4
 - b. That you sin not – v. 2:1
 - c. That you know you have eternal life – vs. 5-13
4. It is emphasis:
 - a. Christ has come in the flesh – vs. 1:1, 2; 4:1-3
 - b. Holy living – vs. 1:5, 6; 3:7-10
 - c. Love the brethren – vs. 3:10, 16, 18
5. Key words:
 - a. Know: 38 times
 - b. Love: 33 times

c. Life: 15 times

d. Light: 6 times

6. I John at a Glance

a. See other side

II. The Basis of Our Fellowship – vs. 1:1-4

A. The Living Word – vs. 1, 2

B. The Written Word – vs. 3, 4

III. Fellowship with God Who Is Light, 1:5—2:28

A. The message – v. 5

B. The test of our profession, vs. 6-8

C. Provisions for restoration of fellowship – vs. 9, 10

D. The grounds for fellowship with God – vs. 2:1, 2

E. The evidence of fellowship with God, vs. 3-17

F. False teachers: Enemies of the light, vs. 18-28

IV. Fellowship with God Who is Righteous, 2:29—4:6

A. The fact of God's Righteousness – v. 29

B. Incentives for Righteous living – vs. 3:1-3

C. Evidence of righteous living – vs. 4-18

D. Assurances resulting from righteous living – vs. 19-24

E. False teachers: Enemies of the truth – 4:1-6

V. Fellowship with God Who Is Love, 4: 7—5: 3

A. Love is a family characteristic – vs. 7, 8

B. The supreme manifestation of love – vs. 9, 10

C. The responsibility of love – vs. 11, 12

D. Love and the indwelling presence of God, vs. 13-16

E. The Perfection of Love in us – vs. 17-21

F. The Love of God – vs. 5:1-3

VI. Divine Assurances – vs. 5:4-21

A. Victory over the world – vs. 5:4-21

B. Be Assurance of Salvation – vs. 9-13

C. Assurance of answered prayer – vs. 14, 15

D. Assurance of forgiveness and certainty of chastisement – vs. 16, 17

E. Assurance of victory over sin – vs. 18-20

F. Conclusion and final warning – v. 21

1 John at a Glance

FOCUS	BASIS OF FELLOWSHIP	BEHAVIOR OF FELLOWSHIP	
REFERENCE	1:1 ————— 2:15 ————— 2:28 ————— 5:4 ————— 5:21		
DIVISION	CONDITIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP	CAUTIONS TO FELLOWSHIP	CHARACTERISTICS OF FELLOWSHIP CONSEQUENCES OF FELLOWSHIP
TOPIC	MEANING OF FELLOWSHIP		MANIFESTATIONS OF FELLOWSHIP
	ABIDING IN GOD'S LIGHT		ABIDING IN GOD'S LOVE
LOCATION	WRITTEN IN EPHESUS		
TIME	c. A.D. 90		

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