

A LOOK AT THE BOOK 1 JOHN

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AUTHOR AND DATE

The book itself does not tell who wrote it but it does speak of him as an eyewitness to the life of Christ in such a way as to leave the strong impression that he was an apostle.

Tradition identifies that apostle as John.

The author's style, vocabulary, and theology confirm that testimony.

As with other Johanne writings, this work is usually dated late, after the destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), but before the persecution of Domitian (A.D. 95).

A date around A.D. 90 is normally assigned.

BACKGROUND

John has observed many *professing* believers who *claim* to know God but whose lives don't give evidence of what they profess.

He apparently believes most are truly saved but separated from fellowship with God.

Not living holy lives

Imitating the world and its patterns

Criticizing and attacking one another

They will never experience the true joy that comes from fellowship with God while they continue in this pattern.

Since their lives are not consistent with a Christian lifestyle, John apparently suspects that some may not have eternal life

They may have never trusted Christ

Therefore, he concludes by mentioning life as a prerequisite for fellowship

Only those who have trusted Christ have eternal life!

Only they can enjoy true fellowship with God!

PURPOSE AND THEME

John's four purposes:

1. That we might enjoy true fellowship 1:3
– with other Christians – with God Himself
2. That we might have complete JOY 1:4
3. That we might not sin 2:1
4. That we might know that we have eternal life 5:13

John's message:

Amos 3:3 "*Can two walk together unless they be agreed?*"

If two people are going to go somewhere together they must be heading the same direction!

To have fellowship with one another, people must be going the same way!

To enjoy fellowship with God, we must be like Him!

1 JOHN

Can Two Walk Together Unless They Be Agreed?

Ralph Porter

God Is Light	God Is Love	God Is Life
1:1-3:10	3:11-5:10	5:11-20
Introduction 1:1-4	Summary 3:11	Source of life 5:11
Basis of his message 1-2	Contrast with world 3:12-4:6	Way to life 5:12-13
Purpose of his message 3-4	Hatred from world 3:12-13	Assurance which accompanies life 5:14-17
Description of God 1:5	Love among brethren 3:14-24	Victory which accompanies life 5:18-20
Implications for believers 1:6-3:10	Teaching of the world 4:1-6	
Walk in holiness 1:6-7	Exhortation to love 4:7-11	Concluding warning 5:21
Provision for restoration 1:8-2:2	Results of love 4:12-18	
Demonstration of fellowship 2:3-27	Reasons for love 4:19-5:2a	
Obedience to commands 3-14		
Rejection of love for the world 15-17		
Rejection of false teachers 18-27	Companions of love 5:2b-10	
Exhortation to holiness 2:28-3:10		