

1 John

Love is Major Theme

Emphasis: Love vs Obedience (conflict ?)

John Connects Love with Obedience

Obedience is Major Theme

Real Conflict is Motive for Obedience – Love vs Fear

(Fear of Punishment, not Fear of God – Isa 11:3, Jn 5:19)

Truth is Major Theme (true/truth 16 times)

Clear, Straightforward Statements

Written by Apostle John from Ephesus (Christian center) end of 1st century

after Paul's death (64 AD) and Fall of Jerusalem (70 AD)

Addresses False Doctrine (Paul's warning to Ephesian Elders)

(Ac 20:29-30) ²⁹“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰“Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Gnosticism (knowledge): separate flesh and spirit, Christ spirit only

Result: License (indulgence of flesh)

Modern Version: Right Knowledge Without Right Actions

Note: John doesn't identify wolves, but identifies false doctrine

(no need for another accuser of the brethren)

1 Jn 1:1-4

Verse 1:

One from Beginning

(Ge 1:1) ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

(Col 1:15-17) ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

John's Testimony: Heard, Seen, and Touched the Creator in the Flesh (Gnosticism)

Word of Life – Creates by Speaking (Jn 1:1) ~ so do His children

Verse 2:

He is a Witness that the Eternal One Physically Manifested as a Man.

Implications:

(Ac 10:38) ³⁸“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

(Heb 4:15) ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus did the Works of God, was Tempted, but Never Sinned as a Man.

Proof it can be done ~ we have everything He had (address sin nature ~ 2 Cor 5:17)

Verse 3:

Purpose of Manifestation is to Establish Fellowship.

Verse 4:

Purpose of Letter is Full Joy

Pleasures of World/Sin don't offer Full Joy

1 Jn 1:5-10**Verse 5:**

Message: God is all Light, no Dark (no Gray – Jam 1:17)

Verse 6-7:

Fellowship with Him must occur in the Light.

The more darkness we embrace, the less space for fellowship with Him.

The Blood of Jesus enables us to freely walk into the light. (Col 1:13-14)

Verse 8-9:

We must own our sin to be cleansed.

Issue of Justice (plea bargain)

Verse 10:

Not just Generally, but every Specific Sin (Deviation from Word)

1 Jn 2:1-2

Purpose of Letter: don't sin (= Full Joy from vs 4)

(opposite of lie that God doesn't want you to have fun)

Goal is Perfection (Mt 5:48)

Difference between Falling Down and Moving the Goal Line.

If we sin, we have an Advocate (legal term – 1 Tim 2:5)

Propitiate – Appease, Satisfy, Deflect Wrath, Reconcile

He entered this Plea Bargain for Everyone...

(Jn 1:29) ²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

(1Ti 4:10) ...we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

but no one is forced to take the deal.

2 lawyers practice in Court of Heaven: Advocate and accuser
choose wisely who you align with

(1Jn 1:1-2:2)

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— ²the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice 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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

¹My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.