



# Standing in the Truth

An Introduction to  
the Book of 1<sup>st</sup>  
John



# 1 John: Four Purposes of this Letter

- 1. To make our joy “Full” or Complete** (1:4)
- 2. To warn us about habitual Sin** (2:1)
- 3. To Refute False Teachers** (2:26) - “ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.”
- 4. To Assure us of our Salvation** (5:13) - “that you may know you have eternal life” and continue to believe in the name of the son of God.

"All the **Gospel requires** is **repentance and faith**... Some of you are asking 'what about obedience?'

Obedience is not what the gospel requires: **Obedience is what the gospel produces.**"

- Voddie Baucham

# 1 John 1

That which was **from the beginning**, which we have **heard**, which we have seen with **our eyes**, which we have looked at and **our hands have touched**—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup>The life appeared; **we have seen it and testify to it**, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

# 1 John 1

<sup>3</sup>We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also **may have fellowship with us.** And our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>**We write this to make our joy complete.**

# 1 John 1

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.** <sup>6</sup> **If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.** <sup>7</sup> 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, purifies us from all sin.

# 1 John 1

<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

# Roadmap

## **1 John Background**

**1. God is Life** (14 times)

**2. God is Love** (46 times)

**3. God is Light** (6 times)

**1. The Power of Fellowship**

# 1 John Background

## False Doctrine: Gnosticism

a heresy that took root in 1<sup>st</sup> century, and for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century was a stronghold that infected the church.

- 1. All physical matter is evil**, therefore  
jesus did not have a physical body, he  
was a phantom spirit
2. Since only the spirit matters, **anything  
you do physically doesn't matter**

# 1 John Background

## False Doctrine: Gnosticism

### The Problem:

- They were using the physical to gratify their sinful nature and they **lived life like they were not saved!**
  - YOU CAN LIVE AND DO WHATEVER you want!! The spirit saves you so you can do whatever!

## 1 John Background

### John's Teaching:

1. Our Belief must match our behavior!
2. Do not be a Hypocrite. Be Sincere.

**“Sine Cera”** = Without Wax



## 1 John Background

**“<sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, **we lie and do not live out the truth.**” - 1 John 1:6**



## 1 John Background

**Are you living out  
your faith sincerely  
at home and in your  
workplace?**

**Do your co-workers  
and friends know  
you are a Christian?**



# I. God is Life

The word “life” is used 14 times in this small epistle.

**1 John 1:1-2** → That which was **from the beginning**, which **we have heard**, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning **the Word of life.** <sup>2</sup> **The life appeared**; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you **the eternal life**, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

# I. God is Life

The word “life” is used 14 times in this small epistle.

- **Bios** – physical Life.
- **Psuche** – Soul Life. Matthew 16:25 “For whoever wants to save his **soul-life** shall lose it; but whoever loses his **soul-life** for My sake shall find it.”
- **Zoe** – **Divine Life**. Life that is ETERNAL. (John 14:6, John 10:10)

# I. God is Life

- **Zoe** – Divine Life. Life that is ETERNAL.
- John 14:6 → <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and **the life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- John 10:10 → <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

# I. God is Life

“It would seem that... our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. **We are half-hearted creatures**, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition **when infinite joy is offered us...**

like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. **We are far too easily pleased.”**

- CS Lewis “The Weight of Glory...”

# **I. God is Life**

**Do we love Muddy Water or  
Living Water?**

## II. God is Love

- **John 4:8-16...** THE WORD LOVE is found **46 TIMES** in 1 John alone.

**Our love definition in English is deficient**

→ “I love ice cream. I love my wife. I love Fridays. I love my kids. I love Taylor Swift”

## II. God is Love

**Storge** → Family Love.

**Eros** → Erotic Love.

**Phileo** → Brotherly love.

**Agape** → **UNCONDITIONAL Sacrificial LOVE.**

- 1 John ONLY uses Agape!
- The highest love that we can know **is a personal relationship with the Lord.**

# 1 John 4:7-10

beloved

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us **love** one another, **for love comes from God**. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> **This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.** <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that **he loved us and sent his Son** as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.



# III. God is Light


1 John 1:5-6 → <sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.** <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, **we lie and do not live out the truth.**

- **Light represents God's holiness, purity, and truth (mentioned 6x).** If God is light, then His children must walk in the light too.

# III. God is Light

To “walk in the light” means to **live in honesty** before God—not pretending, not hiding, not covering up our sins.

**“Satan Loves Secrets”**

A black and white portrait of John Calvin, a bearded man wearing a cap and a fur-lined garment, looking slightly to the right. The portrait is the background for the text.

*The human heart  
is a factory of idols.*

EVERY ONE OF US IS,  
FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB,  
EXPERT IN INVENTING IDOLS.

JOHN CALVIN



# III. God is Light

“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 sin.**” (1 John 1:7)

- That’s good news! Walking in the light doesn’t mean being perfect—it means **being honest with yourself.**
- It means **confessing sin quickly**, depending on Jesus daily, and living transparently before God and others.

## A Light in the Darkness

- Have you ever walked into a dark room and turned on a flashlight, and suddenly all the things hidden in shadow are exposed?
- That's what God's light does—it doesn't come to condemn us but **to cleanse us**. His light reveals what needs healing so He can bring freedom.



# III. God is Light

God is light... **BUT WE ARE IN DARKNESS**. Before we are saved, we were walking in darkness. (Darkness mentioned 7 times)

## 1 John 2:15-16

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—**the lust of the flesh**, **the lust of the eyes**, and **the pride of life**—comes not from the Father but from the world.

# III. God is Light

There are 3 sins that are **deadly interconnected traps**:

**Fleshly Lust** – Cravings for physical or sensual pleasure outside of God's will

**Coveting/Jealousy** – Comparison and discontentment

**Pride of Life** – Self-Glorification

**Are there areas in our lives  
where we are still keeping  
in the dark?**

# III. God is Light

## Come Back into Community!!

**With God** → His Mercy and Grace Abounds!

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

# The Power of Fellowship

**1 John 1:6-7** → If we claim to have **fellowship** with him and yet walk in the darkness, **we lie and do not live out the truth.** <sup>7</sup> 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, purifies us from all sin.

→ The True Joy we have in Christ starts with **Honesty** and being in the Light.

# Conclusion

## 1. Walk in the Light and Be Honest With God

<sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

## 2. Confess your Sins today and God will forgive you!

**3. Live out your Faith at Work.** Make sure your friends know how a Genuine Christian lives their lives