

1:1	1:4	1:5	1:7	1:8	1:10	2:1	2:2	2:3	2:6	2:7	2:8	2:9	2:11	2:12	2:14	2:15	2:17	2:18	2:19	2:20	2:23	2:24	2:25	2:26	2:27	2:28	2:29	3:1	3:3	3:4	3:6
That which witnessed by us, we pro-claim to you. The eternal life is pro-claimed to you. Our fellowship w/ the Father & the Son. Proclaim ed to make joy complete.		Our message heard: In Christ, no darkness. If we walk in the light and thereby have fellowship w/ the Father & Jesus' blood purifies us.		To claim to be free of sin deceives contrast must confess sin-fulness		If we sin, Jesus speaks in our defense to the Father. Not only for us, but for the world.		If we join Him, then we must obey Him. We can't not say we love Christ and not obey Him.		Obedience is not new but has always been God's requirement. This is seen new in Christ		Obedience is seen in loving our brother. If obey Christ by not loving our brother then not in Christ		Children obey because of how Father loved them. Fathers obey because they know true Father. Young men obey because they are a warrior class and able to obey.		To love is obedience--To love the wrong thing is disobedience: sinful cravings, lust, boast- ing, God's people do His will.		The anti-christ (or those who would lead others from Christ) may say the "right" things but show their lives deny truth. True believ- ers acknow- ledge truth.		The reader (believer) is assumed to know the truth (the life--this is the Father promises. Jesus is the Son of God). Antichrists deny truth.		The truth that Jesus is the Son of God Produces Obedience		The Holy Spirit Testi- fies to the Truth		Continue in Christ as a Righteous Follower		Children of God Have Hd Therefore Purify Self		Resisting Sin Shows Us to Be True Followers	
1:1	1:4	1:5	The Message From Christ Proclaimed to You and for You (Gospel)		2:2	2:3	The True Believer/Follower is an Obedient Believer/Follower (Obedience/Lordship)		2:17	2:18	The Truth that Jesus is the Son of God Produces Obedience		2:27	2:28	The Child of God Resists Sin and Obeys the Father in Purity and Righteousness																
Testimony		Ephesians (Intro)		2:2		2:3		2:17		2:18		2:27		2:28																	

To Love God is to Obey God / To Obey God is to Love God is to Love People / To Love People is to Love God

John Takes on Spiritual Elitism (Gnosticism) and Their Theory of Lifeless of Non-Obedience

Principal Personalities

John (the Disciple) - Traditional author, now old man. Evidence of this - similar vocabulary & same simple, direct Hebraic style, employing similar types of parallelism and sentence construction.

John lived in Ephesus during the latter part of his life where he seems to oversee surrounding churches (cf Rev 2-3).

Johannine authorship is attested by external evidence which is both early and substantial: Polycarp, Papias, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Cyprian, plus more... lend their testimony to the authenticity of the epistle and Johannine authorship.

John the most beloved disciple to Christ, probably Christ's closest companion, John changed with caring for Mary by Christ when Christ was crucified (Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him at that time)

Historical Setting

Written from Ephesus. Date uncertain, probably in A.D. 90's (85-90) when heresy which is rebuked here (a early form of Gnosticism) began to flourish.

A group in Ephesus split off from church under the influence of false teachers. The group espoused new a "advanced" views such as Jesus was not the Messiah (2:22, 5:1), nor did He come in the flesh (4:2). Addi- tionally, they didn't need Jesus as Savior or mediator since they claimed to have direct knowledge & follow- ship with God (1:9; 2:4). These views of spiritual elit- ism by-passed morality as love as marks of one's spiritual maturity. What was important to them were visions and spiritual revelations (4:1-4).

These special revelation were supposed to yield special knowledge. This knowledge gave special "right" with God. Knowledge was more significant than obedience/living it

Purpose

To warn against false teachers (Gnostic) and to exhort them to hold fast to Chris- tian faith and fulfill Christian duties, especially love.

To correct invasion of severe errors. One One was associated with moral laxity & the Nicolaitans (connected to Niccolaus) (Acts 6:5; RSV; cf Rev 2:14-15). The other was an error concerning the person & work of Christ, attributed to Cerintus who taught a form of Gnosticism.

A distillation of all John, now an old man, wants people to remember about the faith (see notes and remarks -->)

Key Words Fellowship/Brother 19
Love 46 Children 17 Sin 14
Son 21 Father 15 Truth 11

Themes

Walking in the light. Doing righteousness as evidence of divine sonship, the necessity of love for the brethren, and believing that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh.

Style Not neat nor logical outline. Spiritual structure (instead of linear). Each para- graph sparked a thought which became the next paragraph.

Much like a written sermon to be read aloud in church. Corrective, fatherly.

Additional Personalities

Nicolaitans (Nicolaus) - a group of persons whose works Ephesus church & our Lord hated (Rev 2:6) Their doctrine was similar to that of Balaam through whose influence the Israe- lites ate things sacrificed to idols and committed for- nication (Rev 2:14-15).

Cerintus - Taught a form of Gnosticism.

Geography

Key Verses(s)

1 John 4:17-18