



KNOW



verse of the week:

1 John 1:1 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life."

who is John?

- 1 John is technically anonymous, but most scholars agree that the author of 1 John is the same author of the Gospel of John, 2 John, and 3 John (John son of Zebedee).
- This John is referred to as, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 21:20-24).

- John wrote 1 John to early Christians who were running various house churches in Ephesus (AKA modern-day western Turkey)
- These Christians were going through a crisis, and John wrote this epistle as a type of "damage control" to encourage to them.

big ideas?

- John urged his readers to return back to the basics of Christian life:
 - true doctrine
 - obedient living
 - fervent devotion

who's the audience?

did you know?

John wrote 1-3 John from prison in Patmos. These three books are believed to be the last he wrote.

fun fact:

In 2 & 3 John, John refers to himself as "the elder."

1 John & the gospel of John

1 John is closely linked to the gospel of John both in style and in message. Both books emphasize that true followers of Jesus will display God's love and light to all those they encounter. The beginning of 1 John focuses on John's belief in the resurrected Christ based on what he heard, saw, and touched. This models the same emphasis as John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

question to ponder:

How does walking out your faith look different when you remember our shared responsibility as believers to one another?

Live in the light.

a study on 1 John



know

- In this section of 1 John, John connects the idea of knowing God and eternal life. Beyond eternity in heaven, John is asking his readers to look deeper. For the Christian, knowing God is the ultimate goal: both in this life and the next. In addition to the promised hope of heaven, we can find true fellowship with God and man even while we live here on earth. Look at how John connects eternal life to knowing God in his Gospel:

"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3

- koinōnia [fellowship: deep connection, intimacy, shared interests and purposes]
 - To have eternal life is to have fellowship, deep friendship and intimacy, with God.
 - Often, when we hear the word "fellowship" we think of an old church hall with donuts and coffee. This fellowship John writes of is far beyond mutual friendship. "Koinōnia" fellowship is found when God's people walk in the light together, committed to serving and experiencing Him together.

experience



- Q. John describes eternal life as knowing God and having fellowship with God. The word fellowship can also describe intimacy between spouses. How is this idea of eternal life different and better than how you might have defined it? Write a description of what it would look like for you to really know God and have fellowship with Him.



follow

- Q. How does encouraging other people to have fellowship with God "make your joy complete?" Pray and ask God to show you three people to encourage in their faith this week and write their names below and what He is telling you to do to encourage them.