



WARRIOR'S HEART
BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM ONE MAN AT A TIME

BAND OF
BROTHERS
MEN'S MINISTRY

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

DISCOVERING TRUTHS FROM 1-3 JOHN



Walking in The Light: Discovering Truths from 1-3 John

Overview of 1st John - Martin Dixon

January 11th, 2024

I. Introduction

1) Who wrote 1 John?

a. Bible scholars attribute book to _____

b. Wrote 5 books in the NT

_____ John

2) Number of things were happening by time 1, 2, 3 John were written:

a. Storm of heresies:

_____ : Salvation is by works.

_____ : Proclaims freedom from law – licentiousness.

_____ : Denies Jesus' incarnation and resurrection.

b. "Newness _____ were starting to wear off.

3) Why written? 4 stated reasons

a. That you may have _____, 1:3-4

b. That you will not _____, 2:1

c. That you will not be _____, 2:26

d. That you may _____ that you have _____, 5:11-13

4) Tough Question

_____ 1:6-10

_____ 2:3; 3:22-24

_____ 2:18

_____ 3:6-8; 5:18

_____ 3:14; 5:16

II. Overview

1. What is fellowship? _____ life; _____ sharing of secrets/intimate things

2. Products of fellowship:

a. Joy _____

b. Not sin _____

c. Not be led astray _____

d. Know that you have eternal life _____

INTRODUCTION

Confession



INTRODUCTION

The Overall writing of 1 John

Some things worth remembering:

1. John wrote 5 books of the NT
 - a) Gospel of John
 - b) Revelation
 - c) 1, 2, 3 John
2. Writings were done toward the end of the 1st Century. Number of things were happening by the time by time 1,2,3 John were written

INTRODUCTION

The Overall writing of 1 John

- a) The storm of heresies were taking hold:
 1. **Legalism** – Salvation is by works
 2. **Antinomianism** - which proclaims freedom from the law in the form of licentiousness.
 3. **Gnosticism** – It denies the doctrine of Jesus' incarnation and resurrection

- b) “Newness,” glory, wonder and magnificent of Christianity were now worn-off with the 2nd & 3rd generations Christians
 - It makes God's truths tough to handle
 - Complacency has taken over these 2nd & 3rd generation Christians
 - Christianity has become traditional, nominal
 - It became a fertile ground for cults & heresies

INTRODUCTION

The Overall writing of 1 John

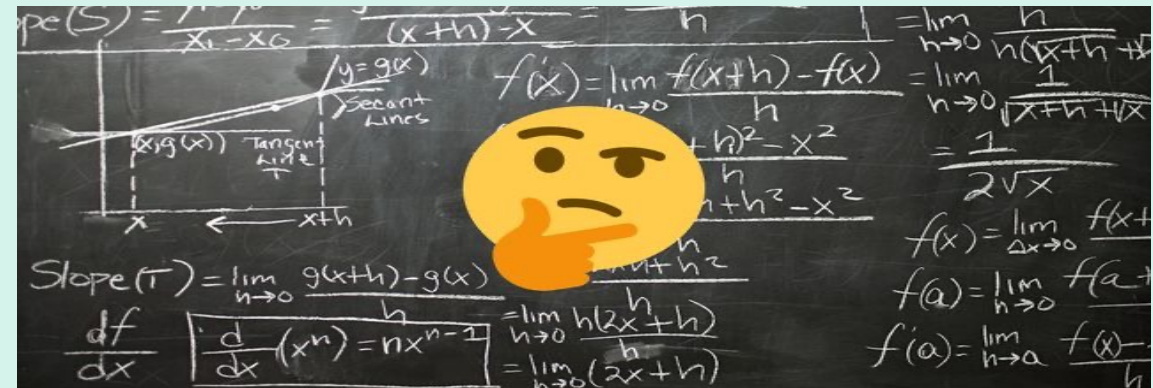
Why was 1 John written? 4 stated reasons

- That we may have **fellowship & joy**, 1:3-4
Bring back fellowship & joy missing in the church
- That we will **not sin**, 2:1
Help to live victorious rather than defeated lives
- That we may **not be led astray**, 2:26
Help to be informed about deceivers and truths they were to embrace; counteract deception of heresy
- That we may know that we have **eternal life**, 5:11-13
Assurance of their salvation

Summary: To live in **fellowship** with God in light and love

Tough Problems

1. Personal sin, 1:6-10 :- Notice the conditions
 - *If ... we say, v.6; we walk, v.7; we say, v.8; we confess, v.9; we say, v.10*
 - If you go to one extreme – you become mechanical in your fellowship with God; the other extreme makes you mystical
2. Problem of commandments, 2:3; 3:22-24
 - What commandments are we talking about?
 - John talks a lot about keeping commandments
 - The great message of the NT is that we are free from the commandments
 - If the commandment is loving God and my fellow brothers, what about the time I don't feel like loving my brothers? Am I still in the family of God?



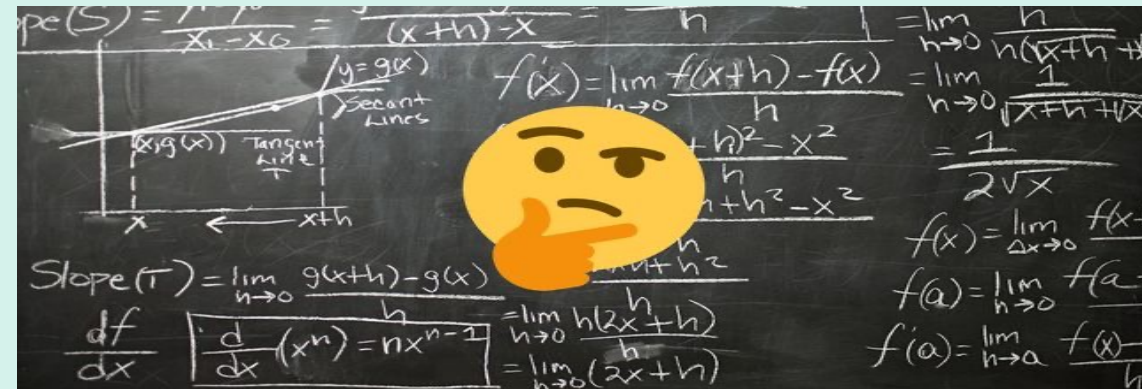
Tough Problems

3. Problem of antichrist, 2:18

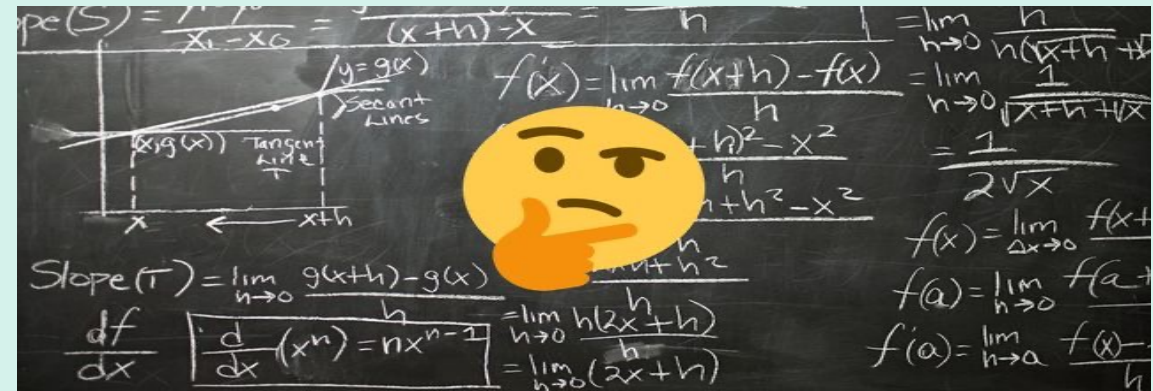
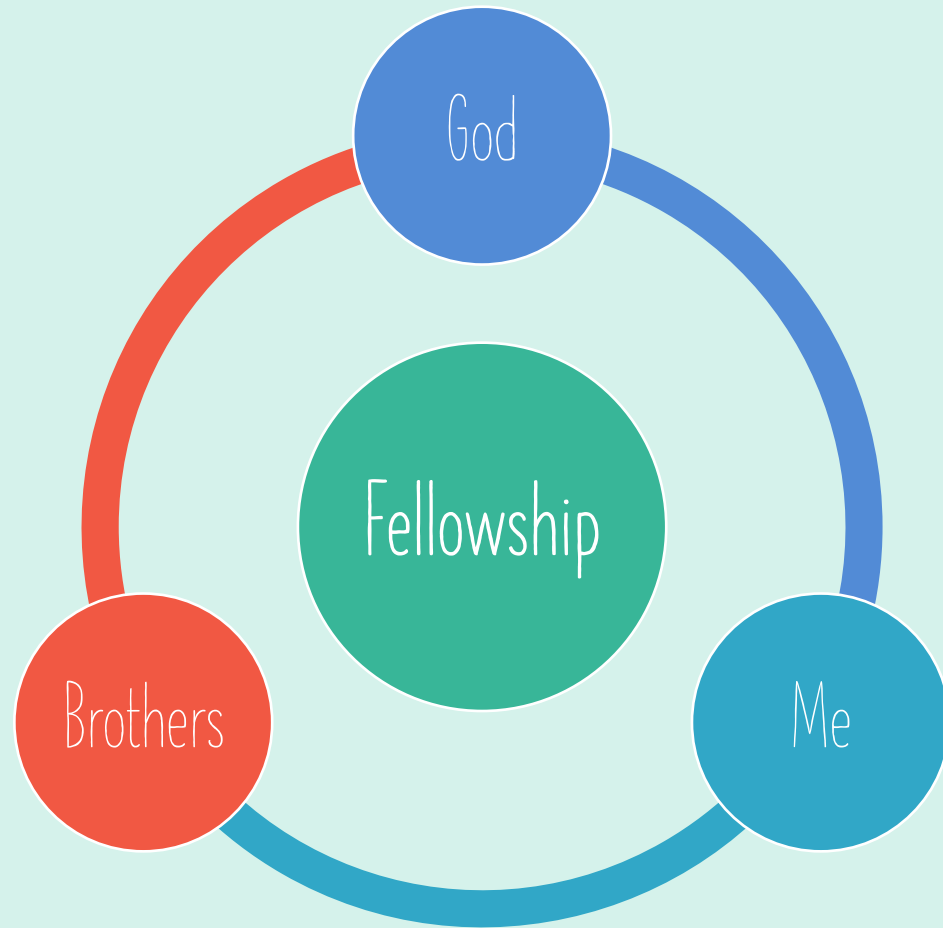
- Is there one antichrist or are there many?
- Problem is not only about one or more antichrist
- John wrote at the end of the 1st century, and yet twenty centuries have passed. I wonder what John meant by *last hour* with more centuries to come.

4. Problem of continue sin, 3:6-8; 5:18

5. Problem of relationship, 3:14; 5:16



Tough Problems



The Things that Fellowship with God produces

God is
Light

God is
Love

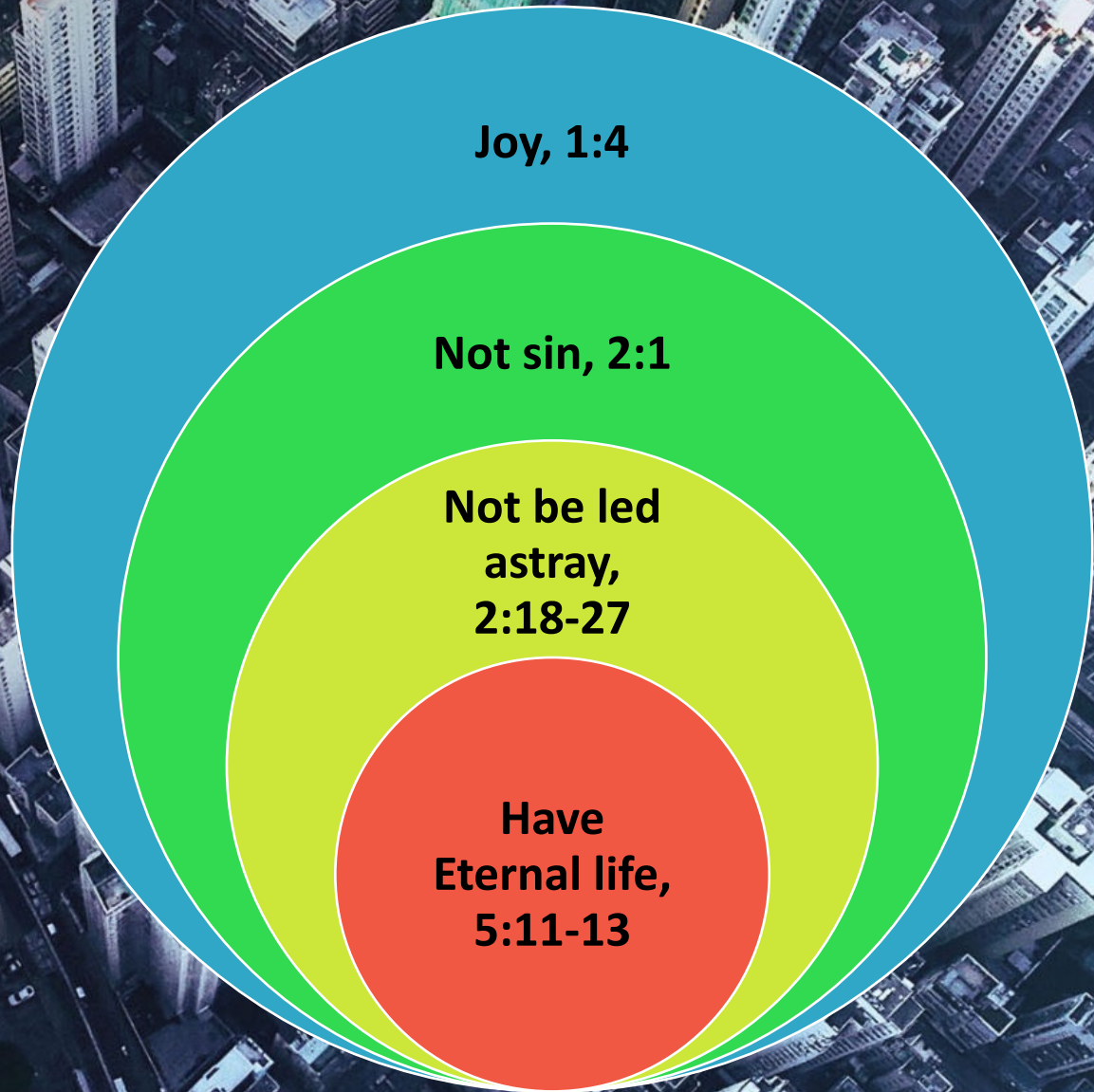
OVERVIEW

1:1-3:10

3:11-5:17

The Things that Fellowship with God produces

OVERVIEW



An aerial photograph of a dense city with many skyscrapers. A large white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned on the left side of the image. The word "OVERVIEW" is written inside the speech bubble in a black, serif, all-caps font.

OVERVIEW

What is Fellowship?

- It takes two English words to bring out what it means to have fellowship with Christ
 - 1. A partnership**, i.e., the sharing of mutual interests, mutual resources, mutual labor together. God and I, working together, a partnership.
 - All that I have: me, my mind, my body are put at **God's disposal**. Well, what do I have?
 - Everything that God is, is put at **my disposal**: The greatness of God, the wisdom, the power, the glory of his might -- all are made available to me, when I make myself available to him. (Phil. 4:13)
 - 2. There is also friendship.**
 - What do you do with a friend?
 - You tell him/her secrets/intimate things. And God wants to tell us secrets. *"I have not called you servants, but I have called you friends,"* (John 15:15).



OVERVIEW

What is Fellowship?

- “To have all things in common.” When you have something in common with another you can have fellowship with him
- John is talking about that unique fellowship that is **only the possession of those who share life in Jesus Christ together.**
- This shared life is the basis for the appeal of Scripture to live together in tenderness and love toward one another.

But that is not all, and it cannot be all.

- This relationship is horizontal, and it depends upon a vertical one. John says, “and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ”(v.3b).

An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Honolulu, Hawaii, showing a dense cluster of high-rise apartment buildings along a sandy beach. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color, and a mountain range is visible in the background under a clear sky. A large white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned in the upper left quadrant, containing the word 'Overview' in bold black text.

Overview

Products of Fellowship with God

That you may have Joy, 1:4

“We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy “(New Living Translation)

- What does John mean?
 1. Having been filled completely full in the past may persist in that state of fullness through the present
 2. That is, the joy John and his colleagues had when they saw, heard, touched and experienced by their direct contact with Jesus will be our own experience in reading this Epistle.
 3. This joy is what makes unbelievers to ask: who are these people?
 4. This joy is the product of the shared life with God
- What attacks this joy? SIN, vv. 5-7

Overview

That you will not sin, 2:1-2

- John moves from the norm, God's expectation to the human nature: *I know you will sin*
 1. But if it does happen, you have an **ADVOCATE** with the Father: Jesus Christ
 - Term comes from two original words meaning, *to call alongside* (Defense attorney)
 - When we sin, we have the one called alongside us, the Righteous One who is our defense before the One who dwells in the light.
 2. That Advocate is also God's satisfaction (**propitiation**) for our sin.
 - Jesus Christ's death satisfies God's righteous demand against sin
 - It does not cost us anything to have the advocate; but cost him his life.

Overview

That you may not be led astray, 2:17-26

“I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray.” (New Living Translation)

- This section paints a picture of the crisis that existed in the churches:
 1. Some members of the church have left the church, following a distorted understanding of the identity of Jesus.
 2. These people have not remained in what they **“heard from the beginning”** and are trying to deceive John’s audience to follow them in their new beliefs.
 3. They deny the humanity of Jesus because “they say flesh is evil.”
- False teachers tell their followers to scrap all previous teachings of the Bible. John says the opposite: abide in God and in his teaching as they have received it. 1:1-4; 4:1-3

Overview

That you may not be led astray, 2:17-26

“I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray.” (New Living Translation)

- John speaks of some issues earlier relevant to this, vv.18ff
 1. The English language simplifies it to mean *“against” or the opposite of Jesus.*
 2. In the original Gk. it also means, *“instead of, in the place of.”*
- For you Western Christians, he might look like you, say the things you want to hear, support the things you support.
- But he will put himself in the place of Christ and make you do what he says, instead of what the Bible says.

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Overview

Products of Fellowship with God

That you may know that you have eternal life, 5:11-13

“I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray.” (New Living Translation)

1. You may **believe** you have eternal life, but do you **KNOW** it? Is it a settled issue for you?
 - Some people will tell you can't know until you die
 - Some will tell you just to do your best.
 - If you don't know that you have eternal life, standing before God will be a horrible to find out you are going to hell.
 - You can know because the blood (death), water (life) of Christ and the Holy Spirit – all **THREE** testify to what Jesus did for the world.
2. You need to continue to believe that you have eternal life



Conclusion

Why is First John so important?

- John presents **Living in fellowship with God**, in uncomplicated way – in terms of black and white: Christ vs. antichrists, light vs. darkness, truth vs. falsehood, righteousness vs. sin, love of the Father vs. love of the world, and the Spirit of God vs. the spirit of the Antichrist. There is right and there is wrong, period.
- Walking in fellowship with the God of light and love is not complicated