

# I John 1 – 17 August 2025

## “Devoted To The Authentic Jesus”

### Introduction

\*The Apostle John, writing in late 80s or early 90s, shows much care to write to his “*little children*”

\*He ministered in Ephesus during these later years

\*Peter & Paul were martyred 20 years earlier & John is coming against false Gnostic teachings of...

\*Nonliteral Scripture interpretation

\*Spiritual & physical must be separate

\*Principles of I John stand in deep contrast to Gnostic L.A.W., they are *love, assurance, and walking in truth*

\*John continually shows Jesus as example of love (1:7, 2:6, 3:2, 3:7, 4:17)

\*John continually emphasizes that we CAN know the truth (2:3, 2:5, 3:16, 3:19, 3:24, 4:2, 4:6, 4:13, 5:2)

\*John continually warns of self-deception (1:6, 1:8, 1:10, 2:4, 4:20)

\*Chap 1 begins with a look at our level of devotion

\*Though a great majority of Americans say they believe in Jesus, it's a minority that worship Him

\*Are we devoted to the authentic Biblical Jesus?

**Today, we see 3 ways to align our lives in true devotion to Jesus Christ**

**#1 – Be immersed in the real Jesus [The Life] (Vs 1-4)**

Read Vs 1

1. Jesus was *from the start* the *Word of Life*
  - a. Read John 1:1 – He's the eternal Creator from the start
  - b. Being the Word, what does He reveal?  
Words that bring life
  - c. Quote John 14:6 – He is truly the way to eternal life
2. Apostles & John were 1sthand witnesses to the life of Jesus b/c they *heard, saw & touched* Him
  - a. Quote II Pet 1:16 – didn't follow cunningly devised fables, but were eyewitnesses
  - b. Read I Cor 15:5-8 – Many saw the proof of resurrection

## Read Vs 2

1. Jesus came to these specific people
  - a. They saw Him, they agree He is eternal life & they now proclaim He is eternal life
  - b. The One that was eternally w/ the Father was revealed to them
  - c. What a responsibility John has to share
2. Jesus is embodiment of eternal life, & can't die
  - a. In John 10, Jesus said that He Himself is the Door to the sheepfold (Read John 10:9-10)
  - b. To comfort Martha, Jesus told her He's the living embodiment of life (Read John 11:25-26)

## Read Vs 3

1. The reason John, & Christians today, proclaim faith in Jesus to others is so they may join in this eternal life which is fellowship
  - a. Notice this fellowship is w/ other like-believing people & certainly w/ God Himself
  - b. Fellowship or *koinonia* is to have an intimate joint partnership

## Read Vs 4

1. Eternal life isn't just having been born into relationship with God, but it's fellowship thru obedience that brings joy (Read John 15:10-11)
2. Gaining eternal life, gains fellowship, which in turn gains joy
3. And it's joy to share the life of Jesus w/ others

## #2 – Walk in His ways [The Light] (Vs 5-7)

### Read Vs 5

1. Now what is this light, it's daily life
  - a. God Himself is the source of life
  - b. Read John 8:12 – We're invited to follow
2. He not only is light, but there's no darkness
  - a. There's zero indication that He'll ever be anything but perfect & sustained w/i Himself
  - b. Read Jam 1:17 – There is no chance He'll ever change

### Read Vs 6

1. For many there is a major divide between what we *say* or confess & how we *walk* or live

- a. These words or confessions are lies, & do not represent the reality of their heart
  - b. Doves & Crow story – walk, talk & appetite
  - c. Read Jam 1:22 – This is self-deception
2. Problem is ungodly men will *confess* anything to fit into a group, but doesn't want Christ's lordship over his deeds (Turn to John 3:16-21)
3. Now, did you know Light exists, but darkness doesn't, darkness is simply the absence of Light
- a. Light can be detected, measured, utilized, but darkness can't apart from speaking of Light
  - b. This is why eternal death for unbelievers is called Outer Darkness – no presence of God
  - c. Those that refuse the Light, Jesus, in this world will be denied Light for all eternity

Read Vs 7

1. Read John 12:46 – once we believe in the blood of Christ for salvation, we've come to the Light & we can now continue to walk in the Light

2. This is where fellowship comes from, abiding
  - a. *Cleansing* here is continual cleansing – once and continuing action
  - b. The blood of Jesus isn't a partial work but removes all sin from our account
3. How's your walk in the Light? (Read Matt 5:14-16)
  - a. Our walk of light, proves our words of confession, which proves we have a new heart of worship

### **#3 – Confess sin honestly [The Lament] (Vs 8-10)**

Read Vs 8

1. We must acknowledge that apart from Jesus the natural man currently possesses sin
  - a. Many people lie by saying, “oh yes, I have sinned in the past, but I haven't done that for a long time. I'm a good person now”
  - b. But there's no statute of limitations on sin, once marred by it, we remain stained until the blood of Christ is received to remove it

2. We have an amazing potential to self-deception away from what is true & into what is comfortable
  - a. We lie & shrug off sin as if it's not harmful  
(Read Jer 17:9)

## Read Vs 9

1. Notice it's more than acknowledging, it's confessing sin
  - a. Confess is *homologeo* to say the same word
  - b. We can't just acknowledge the true of who Jesus is, we must confess He's needed for us
  - c. Can't just acknowledge that there is sin, but that we have sinned
  - d. We must look at our helpless nature & agree w/ God that we need Him to give us a new nature
2. God wants to make us clean
  - a. Read Isa 1:18 & Read Psm 51:10-12
3. Notice that God is faithful & righteous (just)
  - a. He must be both kind and strong (capable) or He's of no use to us
    - i. A strong, capable, righteous & just God may not want to forgive & cleanse us

ii. A faithful & kind God may not have the ability to forgive and cleanse us

iii. But HE IS BOTH, praise God

4. So believing is...

a. To acknowledge God's point of view

b. To confess that He's right & we need that truth applied to us

c. To believe that He has the power & desire to cleanse us of guilt and sin forever

Read Vs 10

1. This is the idea in which they believed that they've never sinned or don't have a sin nature

a. Some misinterpret I John 3:9 to get that false view (we'll get to that later)

b. Many in New Age beliefs would say that they're simply on a journey of enlightenment getting better and better

c. Some cults in "holiness or Wesleyan offshoots" claim the sin nature is removed

2. We are being called today to "agree w/ God" & believe in Jesus, the Way, the Truth & the Life



## Conclusion

So are you devoted to worshipping Jesus with your whole life? Above all other things?

**1. Are we being immersed in the authentic Jesus? [The Life]**

- a. We can only do this in the Word of God
- b. Strip away man's opinion & just read it

**2. Are we walking in His ways? [The Light]**

- a. He's only Light & can't lead you wrong
- b. This is where we find fellowship & rest

**3. Are we confessing sin honestly? [The Lament]**

- a. There's always more things daily to come into alignment with God regarding
- b. Let's stay humble & daily admit our need for Jesus Christ to cleanse us from sin