



Step by Step

62. 1 John



Author // John

Original Recipients // The text contains no hint of exactly to whom he was writing. Tradition holds he was writing to Christians in the city of Ephesus.

Date of Writing // Church Fathers as far back as the end of the first and beginning of the second centuries attribute this letter to the Apostle John and consider it to have been written toward the close of the first century. At the time of his writing John was an aged man and the only surviving Apostle of Christ.

Type of Literature // Didactic

Major Themes // The Nature of God; Christian Living; Abiding in Christ; Loving God and One Another

Occasion for Writing // John provides several reasons for writing this letter including: that our joy may be full (1:4), to help prevent sin (2:1), to remind us of Jesus' love if we do sin (2:1), to give assurance of salvation (5:13), and that we would continue to trust in Jesus (5:13).



Simple Summary // After a lifetime of walking with Jesus, John writes to call *others* into fellowship with Christ. This book emphasizes the fellowship the believer can have with Christ because sin has been atoned for. It also calls believers to have fellowship with one another. John spends ample time discussing the relationship the Christian is to have with God, with others, and with the world around us. John not only call us closer to Christ, but he also warns us of the dangers of being pulled away by false teachings or the desires of the flesh.



Outline // The 5 chapter divisions provide a sufficient outline for further study of 1 John.

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Key Verses

1:3 // that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1:5 // This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1:16 // If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2:2 // And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

2:3 // Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

2:15 // Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2:28 // And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

3:16 // By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

3:23 // And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

5:14-15 // Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

■ ■ Jesus in 1 John



Jesus is the Eternal God who became man so that man could be restored to God. John explains that we have fellowship with God through Christ who is our Propitiation and who provides continual washing for those abiding in Him. Jesus is further described as the True Christ who will come again and into whose image the believer will ultimately be conformed into.

