

# Meeting John

## 1 John 1:1-7 – Bio & Background

### Meeting John - the person, pen, and epistle

- John's Personhood
- John's Pen
- John's Epistle

### John's Personhood

Religious and really passionate but A LOT OF ROOM for growth.

**Matthew 4:22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.**

**He was the younger brother of James** (not Jesus brother)

*John and his older brother James seemed to be inseparable in the Gospel accounts and both shared a rather fiery temperament.*

- Fire from Heaven (Luke 9)
- Forbid others to minister in Jesus name (rebuked a man in Mark 9:38)
- Debates about who was the best (Mark 10 & Matthew 20)

**Note:** right after Jesus emphasized the need for humility.

He was not short on zeal and passion, the problem however, is that unbridled zeal and passion can start wildfires.

### Always in the background

Acts 3-5 John was one of the main leaders amongst the early church.

Although he was a frequent companion to Peter in the first twelve chapters of Acts, Peter remained in the foreground and ***John remained in the background.***

**Acts 4:13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Ran from Jesus in the garden but stood with Peter in persecution.

*Faithfulness and courage is a very expensive trait to acquire.*

**As far as we know, John was the only eye witness to Jesus' crucifixion**

Peter was entrusted to tend and feed the church

John was entrusted with Mary, Jesus' mother.

**John 19:26-27** When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

**What has Jesus entrusted into your care?**

You don't ask for it... you live for Him and He will place it into your lives.

**HANDLE WITH CARE!**

## **Apostle of Love**

**Nicknamed, The Apostle of Love** - because of the frequent use of love in his writings. John wrote more than any other New Testament writer on the importance of love.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**John 13:35** “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**John 15:13** “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

**1 John 4:8** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

How did a brash, hard headed, intolerant, zealous, favor seeking, young man with unbridled ambition become God’s instrument to teach the church about love?

Could it be that he wrote the most because he was convicted the most?

*However he started, one could say that John aged well...*

## **Last of the apostles to die, between AD 98 – 100**

After Peter and Paul were executed in 66-67 AD, John pastored the church in Ephesus\ (Turkey) Oversaw a network of houses churches... most likely in the area of Ephesus.

- AD 70 Romans destroyed the temple and John most likely helped hold the church together.
- John was exiled to Patmos around AD 93 (Book of Revelation)
- John was the only one to die of old age, not for lack of persecution though.
- Jerome said that he was so frail and feeble in the end that he had to be carried into the church at Ephesus.

## **John’s Pen**

John’s Pen – Is really the Holy Spirit

**2 timothy 3:16** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

**2 Peter 1:21** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as *they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

*As much as we loved the wisdom and writing of Paul... could it be that the Lord preserved the best for last? (... all Scripture is given and equally important)*

**John wrote over 20 years after Paul had been in heaven (best for last)**

**Epistles were written well into his latter years, possibly between AD 90-93**

## Literary styles

### Amplification vs. Linear thought

Literary Style: Revolving Topics

Circles back around and around and around to same or similar topics but adding perspective or angles each time. Rather than identifying the topic as you read, focus on what he is saying about the topic.

### VERY POINTED, Descriptive, & Dogmatic

We are about to read the writing of a man with deep convictions and a devotion to truth!

He writes in absolutes, **NO GREY AREA!**

- Light vs. darkens
- Truth vs. Lies
- Loves vs. Hate
- God's Children vs. the Devil's Children
- The judgement of the righteous vs. unrighteous
- The resurrection of life against the resurrection of damnation
- Receiving Christ vs. Rejecting Christ
- Obedience vs. Disobedience
- Love against hate
- YOU WILL NOT BE CONFUSED... challenged but not confused.

*"He did not waste ink coloring in the grey areas."*

*"While he always wrote with a warm, personal, pastoral tone, what he wrote does not always make for soothing reading."*

### The usage of Love & Light

While he wrote more than anyone about the necessity of love, he also **STRONGLY** emphasized a **LOVE** for truth.

- Truth: 25x in his Gospel
- Truth: 20x in 1, 2, 3, John

*No one in all of Scripture, except the Lord Himself, had more to say on the very concept of truth.*

### John's Epistle's (1,2,3)

**Epistles of John: Messages, dispatches, communications... letters.**

(more than casual though) (not just a pen pal)

**! John was written as damage control or correcting cracks that are showing up in the early church foundation. (The people) *If Satan can divide the people then he will try to sterilize or neuter the body of Christ.***

### Warnings (x3)

1. False Believers
2. False Teachers

Steven & Study tactics with pastor Jack

3. False Love

**Gnosticism:** comes from the Greek work of knowledge

Gnostics “I DO know” – Higher Learning & Understanding

*The Gnostic mantra was, to become enlightened and saved, one must attain to a secret higher knowledge (gnosis) above that of Scripture.*

*“What is new is not true, what is true is not new.”*

**Nothing NEW... if you are always after the new thing, you will miss the true thing.**

Most of 1 John comes right from Jesus teaching in the Gospels

**John’s Focus - Particularly addressed to the family of God**

Kingdom of God as a whole and in it’s present state – Peter, James, and Jude

Truth concerning the church, the body of Christ – Paul

Truth for the family of God – John

**THEME – CONTINUE!!!**

**1 John 5:13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Jesus is our anchored

The Word is our foundation

**1 Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The goal is heaven... you can rest there... take your armor off there...

Until then, be busy about your fathers business

Until then, be fighting the good fight

Until then, be running your race

Until then, continue!!!

**Christianity is the most counter cultural philosophy in the world. - Ironside**

There is a response and responsibility to the Gospel

(You are not saved by works but you either confessed Him as Lord or you did not.) (You are either purchased or you are not)

Gospel of John... Jesus is the light of the world

**John 8:12** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

John also noted what Matthew recorded – we are the light of the world.

**Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”**

*If it's new it's not true, if it's true it is not new*

At his age, if it were not true, then change the story...

**I have written that you may;**

Have full joy

Know you are saved

**Zeal for the truth must be balanced by a love for people.**

There is no way you meet Jesus and stay the same... I once was lost but now am found. **Three years with Jesus moved this Son of Thunder toward becoming an apostle of love.**

**CONTUNUE!!! – THINK BIBLE, LIVE JESUS! AMEN?**

[Luke 7](#) - He who has been forgiven much, loves much

[John 13:23](#) “who Jesus loved” upper room.