

XO Series Part 1

Background:

The book of 1 John was written by John the son of Zebedee and brother of James who both were fishing with their father when Jesus interrupted them to call them to be his disciples. John ultimately ended up serving as pastor of the church in Ephesus, which was founded by the apostle Paul. John wrote his Gospel, his 3 letters, and finally the book of Revelation. It is believed that John wrote his letters last. This places the date about A.D. 100. John wrote the book of 1 John because of 4 things that were happening to the church in that time:

1. The newness had worn off. The thrill and glory of the first days of Christianity had faded.
2. The high standards of Christianity made Christians different, but the children and grandchildren of the first Christians just wanted to fit in.
3. The danger to the church was not persecution from the outside but seduction from the inside.
4. Gnosticism was the basic philosophy of the Roman Empire and it threatened the beliefs of Christianity.

First John has been called the *sanctum sanctorum* of the New Testament. It takes the child of God across the threshold from just being in the Father's house to actually being in the Father's fellowship. It is the family epistle.

Today's 1 John Text:

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Sermon Points:

1. The _____ of love (v7-8)
 - God is not simply someone who "Loves," but rather He is someone who ___ Love.
2. The _____ of love (v9)
 - 1 John 4 uses the Greek word for love *agapos*, often referred to as agape, which means _____ Love.
3. The _____ of love (v10)
 - God is love. He created love, created us to love Him, and has _____ His love to each of us.