

1 John: Introduction

1. Timeless Question addressed by John

- A. How do we handle _____ within a congregation?
- B. How do we confront _____ in teaching when they claim spiritual authority?
- C. What do we do when behavior seems to _____ with what someone says they believe?
- D. Is _____ really the most important thing?

2. The Church at Ephesus

- A. Early tradition indicated _____ planted the church at Ephesus.
- B. The conflict in the church reached a _____ point and the church was tearing itself apart.
- C. The church at Ephesus did _____ survive the conflict.

3. Themes in First John

A. Christology

- i. Jesus is the _____. ([1 John 5:1](#))
- ii. Jesus came in the _____ flesh. ([1 John 4:2](#))
- iii. Jesus is the _____ of _____. ([1 John 2:23](#))
- iv. Jesus Christ came by “_____ and _____” ([1 John 5:6](#))

B. Ethics

- i. A true Christian _____ his life after Jesus’ life. ([1 John 2:6](#))
- ii. A true Christian shuns _____. ([1 John 3:6](#))
- iii. A true Christian is characterized by _____. ([1 John 3:11](#))

C. Minor themes

- i. The _____
- ii. The importance of _____ and _____
- iii. _____ and _____

4. Date: _____ A.D.
5. Location: _____ (modern day Turkey)
6. Outline
 - A. Prologue (1:1-4)
 - B. Part 1: God is _____ (1:5-3:10)
 - C. Part 2: God is _____ (3:11-5:12)
 - D. Conclusion (5:13-21)

Discussion Questions

1. Knowing what you now know about the church at Ephesus, was John a successful pastor?
2. What happens if we deny our own sinfulness?
3. Is Christian love just for those inside our community or also for those outside our community? Why or why not?
4. Why is it important that Jesus came in the actual flesh and was not just an apparition or a spirit being?
5. What are some dangers of simply accepting new things without testing their veracity?
6. What are your thoughts about handling people who were once part of our community of believers, but have left our community of believers?
7. Why is love most important?