

The Apostle John was the closest disciple of the 12 to the Lord Jesus Christ even though Peter was the leader of the disciples. John had a special understanding concerning Jesus Christ and God used him to pen books in the Bible to give us this same understanding. The theme of 1 John and key verse is 1 John 5:13 which is very similar to his stated purpose in the gospel he wrote...that we might believe and \_\_\_\_\_ (John 20:31). In both **John 1:1** and **1 John 1:1** John reveals that Jesus Christ is the embodiment of the Word of God. 1 John is specifically written that we might have an assurance **as true believers** concerning who we are in Christ with a dual purpose to expose **make-believers** so that they might believe.

## INTRODUCTION TO 1 JOHN

### 1. The Apostle John

- John, a fisherman by trade, was one of the first disciples Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to follow Him along with his older brother James, sons of Zebedee – Mk. 1:19-20.
- Jesus nicknamed James and John “sons of thunder” because of their roughness and \_\_\_\_\_ – Mk. 3:14-17, 10:35-45; Lk. 9:51-56.
- John listened, learned, and grew allowing Jesus to turn his weaknesses into strengths, from a son of thunder to a disciple of \_\_\_\_\_ – Mk. 9:38-40; Jn. 13:21-25; 20.2; 21:7, 20; Eph. 4:13-15.

*John was the only disciple not to hide or deny Jesus Christ (Jn. 18:15-16)*

*John was the only disciple to go all the way to the cross with Jesus (Jn. 19:25-27)*

*John recognized the Lord after the resurrection when others did not (Jn. 21:7)*

- Jesus trusted his \_\_\_\_\_ disciple John to record the events of His **first coming (gospel of John)**, **second coming (Revelation)**, intimate details of a **personal relationship** with God (1, 2, 3 John), and the daily care of his \_\_\_\_\_ – Rev. 1:4, 9-10; Jn. 19:26-27.
- History records that the Apostle John died in Ephesus with three notable disciples in his lineage: Polycarp (*pastor at Smyrna*), Papias (*pastor at Hierapolis*), and Ignatius (*pastor at Antioch*).

### 2. The Uniqueness of 1 John

- 1 John is in the section of the Bible called the \_\_\_\_\_ epistles. The books in this part of the New Testament **generally apply** to both Jews and Gentiles during all New Testament times – Gal. 2:9.
- Some consider 1 John a \_\_\_\_\_ epistle compared to a church epistle because its rich content generally applies to the entire family of God throughout all ages.
- There are a few very \_\_\_\_\_ truths John gives us to consider in this powerful epistle – 1 John 3:6-10, 5:16.

- Some **key repeated words** in 1 John which will guide our study:

*Fellowship* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X

*Antichrist* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X

*Love* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X

*Children* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X (*little children* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X)

*Know/Knowledge* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X

*Abide* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X

*Witness* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X

*One Another* -- \_\_\_\_\_ X

### 3. Outlines of 1 John

- Three applications:

*Historical* – Written to *little children, young men, and fathers of the early churches* to highlight \_\_\_\_\_ of a genuine relationship with God.

*Doctrinal* – Instruction to *tribulation saints* about antichrist and remaining pure for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 5:21; Rev. 13:14-15, 14:9-11, 16:2).

*Devotional* – Instruction to *church age saints* about spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (children, young men, fathers – 1 John 2:12-14).

- Though knowing and believing is the overall theme of 1 John (5:13), John writes four other purposes for his writing as well:

a. *That we might have true fellowship* (1:3)

b. *That our \_\_\_\_\_ might be full* (1:4)

c. *That we wouldn't sin* (2:1)

d. *That we would clearly see those around us who may \_\_\_\_\_ us* (2:26; 2 Tim. 3:13)

- Chapter outline for 1 John:

**Chapter 1 – True Fellowship Defined** (1:3)

**Chapter 2 – True Fellowship and Our Obedience and \_\_\_\_\_** (2:3-5)

**Chapter 3 – True Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_ Us** (3:3)

**Chapter 4 – True Fellowship Loves the Brethren of God** (4:20-21)

**Chapter 5 – True Fellowship Overcomes \_\_\_\_\_ and Endures** (5:4-5)