

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)