

Module 25: Review of 1 John

1) Observations and Interpretation

- a) The Apostle John's stated purpose for writing
 - i) 13 times the words "write" (1), "writing" (6), or "written" (6) appear in the letter
 - ii) 4 times these words are directly referring to "these things". 3 times the words "so that" are used.
 - (1) 1:4 – so that our joy may be made complete
 - (2) 2:1 – so that you may not sin
 - (3) 2:26 – concerning those who are trying to deceive you
 - (4) 5:13 – so that you may know that you have eternal life
 - iii) Whereas the gospel of John was written to lead a person to life-giving salvation in Jesus Christ who is the Son of God (justification), the epistle of 1 John was written to give a person life-cleansing assurance of that salvation through the same Son of God (sanctification). (cf. John 20:30-31 and 1 John 5:13)
- b) Fellowship (1:3)
 - i) It is with other believers
 - ii) It is with God the Father
 - iii) It is with His Son Jesus Christ
 - iv) Cf. 2 Corinthians 13:14 for the Holy Spirit
- c) Truths about God
 - i) God's essence
 - (1) God is light (1:5)
 - (2) God is love (4:8, 16)
 - ii) Works of God
 - (1) God has fellowship with us (1:3)
 - (2) God is greater than our heart and knows all things (3:20)
 - (3) God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him (4:9)
 - (4) God abides in us (4:12)
 - (5) God has given us eternal life (5:11)
- d) Truths about Jesus
 - i) Who Jesus is
 - (1) Jesus is the Christ (2:22; 5:1)
 - (2) Jesus is the Son of God (4:15; 5:5)
 - ii) Works of Jesus
 - (1) Jesus has fellowship with us (1:3)
 - (2) Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sin (1:7)
 - (3) Jesus is our Advocate with the Father (2:1)
 - (4) Jesus appeared to destroy the works of the devil (3:8)
 - (5) Jesus has come in the flesh (4:2)
 - (6) Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (4:10)
 - (7) Jesus has given us understanding of God (5:20)

- e) Black and white contrasts
 - i) Light versus darkness (1:5; 2:8, 9)
 - ii) Righteous versus evil (3:12)
 - iii) Life versus death (3:14)
 - iv) Truth versus error (4:6)
- f) What “we know”
 - i) “By this we know”
 - (1) “By this you know” – (4:2)
 - (2) “By this we know” – (2:3, 5; 3:24; 4:13; 5:2)
 - (3) “By this we have known” – (3:16)
 - (4) “By this we shall know” – (3:19)
 - (5) “From this we know” – (4:6) These words are the literal translation.
 - (6) “By this” – (3:10; 4:9, 17)
 - ii) “know”
 - (1) *Eido (oida)*: (cf. 2:11, 20, 21 twice, 29; 3:1, 2, 5, 14, 15; 5:13, 15 twice, 16, 18, 19, 20)
 - (2) A subset of the above as “we know” (3:2, 14; 5:15 twice, 18, 19, 20)
- g) Confidences the believer has
 - i) *Parrhesia* (all + speech): freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech, boldness
 - ii) 4 times in 1 John (2:28; 3:21; 4:17; 5:14)
 - (1) “have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming” (2:28) – when we see Him at the rapture.
 - (2) “have confidence before God” (3:21) – when we have access to God in pray.
 - (3) “so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment” (4:17) – to be realized in the future.
 - (4) “the confidence we have before Him” (5:14-15) – when we pray according to His will, He hears us and answers us.
 - iii) Not just to the future at the Parousia or appearing (2:28) and the Judgment Day (4:17), but here and now. (Stott)
 - iv) Free and bold manner of approach to God
- h) Tests of the believer
 - i) Three passes, spirals, or applications of tests (Stott)
 - (1) First Application of the Tests (2:3-27)
 - Obedience (2:3-6); Love (2:7-11); Belief (2:18-27)
 - (2) Second Application of the Tests (2:28-4:6)
 - Obedience (2:28-3:10); Love (3:11-18); Belief (4:1-6)
 - (3) Third Application of the Tests (4:7-5:5)
 - (a) Love (4:7-12)
 - (b) Belief and love combined (4:13-21)
 - (c) Belief, love, and obedience combined (5:1-5)
 - ii) “Whichever is the best way of seeking to follow John’s closely-knit argument, what is plain is that his three tests belong together and cannot be separated. The true Christian, born from above, believes in the Son of God, loves God and the children of God, and keeps the commandments of God. Each involves

the others. Belief, love and obedience are marks of the new birth. The new birth brings us willynilly into a certain relation to Christ, to God, to the Church and to the world which we cannot repudiate and which marks us out as Christians.” (Stott)

- i) The Epistle begins and ends with Christ-centric focus
 - i) Eternal life (1:2; 5:20)
 - ii) His Son Jesus Christ (1:3; 5:20)
 - iii) Guard yourselves from idols, which include anything that takes away from focusing on the human Jesus being the Son of God, and therefore God Himself, and also being the Messiah.

2) Applications

- a) Name one teaching you are glad is included in 1 John.
- b) Name one item you will strive to implement in your life on a regular basis because of 1 John.
- c) What other application do you have?

SURVEY CHART OF 1 JOHN

PURPOSE: To give us the joy of the assurance of eternal fellowship with God and His Son Jesus Christ

Persons of the Fellowship	Prologue: The Reality of the Incarnation	Assurance Through the Test of Fellowship	Assurance from the Conflicts of Faith	Assurance from the Evidence of True Love	Assurance Through the Witness of the Spirit	Epilogue: The Confidence and Certainties of Believers	The Fundamental Tests of Genuine Fellowship – SPIRAL I	The Fundamental Tests of Genuine Fellowship – SPIRAL II	The Fundamental Tests of Genuine Fellowship – SPIRAL III	The Fundamental Tests of Genuine Fellowship – SPIRAL IV	Preface	1:1 <i>The Incarnate Word of Life</i>	1:5 <i>God is Light</i>	1:8 <i>We sin, God cleanses us</i>	2:1 <i>Jesus, the propitiation</i>	2:3 <i>Knowing God implies obeying Him</i>	2:7 <i>Walking with God implies loving one's brothers</i>	2:12 <i>Knowing God implies overcoming the evil one</i>	2:15 <i>Don't Love the World</i>	2:18 <i>Antichrists are here in the last hour</i>	2:20 <i>The Holy Spirit keeps us from lies</i>	2:22 <i>The antichrist denies Father and Son</i>	2:24 <i>Dwelling on the gospel leads to eternal life</i>	2:26 <i>The Holy Spirit helps us discern truth</i>	2:28 <i>Going deep with Christ produces confidence and discernment in righteousness</i>	3:1 <i>We are children of God who hope in Christ's appearing</i>	3:4 <i>What we practice – sin or righteousness – indicates whose we are</i>	3:11 <i>Believers love their brothers in deed and truth</i>	3:19 <i>Assurance from the practice of love</i>	4:1 <i>Test every spirit</i>	4:7 <i>Love one another</i>	4:13 <i>Mutually abiding in God</i>	4:17 <i>Perfect love</i>	5:1 <i>The one born of God believes, loves, and obeys</i>	5:4 <i>The one born of God is victorious</i>	5:6 <i>The Spirit, the water, and the blood testify in agreement</i>	5:10 <i>The results of believing is life</i>	5:13 <i>John's purpose is our assurance</i>	5:14 <i>Confidence in prayer</i>	5:18 <i>Three certainties and one last exhortation</i>
											Apostolic Message and its Moral Implications	First Application of the Tests Obedience (2:3-6) Love (2:7-11) Belief (2:18-27)	Second Application of the Tests Obedience (2:28-3:10) Love (3:11-18) Belief (4:1-6)	Third Application of the Tests Love (4:7-12) Love and love combined (4:13-21) Belief, love, and obedience combined (5:1-5)	Three Witnesses and our Consequent Assurance	Three Affirmations and a Concluding Exhortation																								

(4)

(3)

(2)

(1)

KEY VERSES:

- Purpose for 1 John
 - What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. (1:3-4)
 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. (5:13)
- Words by which to live
 - But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1:7)
 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1:9)
 - Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (2:15-17)
 - This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. (2:25)
 - See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (3:1)
 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; (4:2)
 - Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. (4:4b)
 - By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (4:9-10)
 - We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (4:14-16)
 - He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (5:12)

KEY WORDS:

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|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| • Abide | • Commandment | • His Son Jesus Christ | • Practices |
| • Antichrist | • Confess | • Know | • Propitiation |
| • Ask | • Confidence | • Life / Eternal Life | • Righteous(ness) |
| • Believe | • Death | • Light | • Sin |
| • Born | • Evil / Evil One | • Love | • Spirit |
| • Brother | • Father | • One Another | • World |
| • By This | • Fellowship | • Overcome | |
| • Children | • God | • Perfected | |

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