

# 1 JOHN

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**1. TITLES:**

- A. John = gift of God
- B. The First Epistle of John
- C. The Book of Love

**2. AUTHOR:**

Written by John the Beloved, the author of the Gospel, three Epistles, and the Revelation.

**3. DATE:**

Probably written between 85 and 90 A.D.

**4. KEY WORDS:**

- A. A. Love (d,th) – 46
- B. Know (2 Greek Words) – 42
- C. Sin (s, ed, eth) – 28
- D. World ('s) – 23
- E. Life – 15
- F. Abide – 12

**5. KEY VERSES: 4:16**

**6. PURPOSE:**

- A. To refute the heresy of Gnosticism born out of apostate Judaism and corrupt Paganism.
- B. To exhort the believer concerning his relationship to God, the brethren, the world, the sin.
- C. To show that true knowledge of God involves a personal relationship with Him.

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## 7. MESSAGE:

- A. If we truly know God and are in fellowship with Him, then we will not love the world, but will walk in light and walk in love.
- B. If the believer abides in life he will not live in sin.

## 8. OUTLINE:

- I. God is Light – Ch. 1, 2
- II. God is Love – Ch. 3, 4
- III. God is Life – Ch. 5

## 9. SUMMARY:

This epistle was born out of John's intimate relationship with and his personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus as seen in his Gospel. Converts from Judaism and Paganism sought to mingle the theories of their former beliefs with the truth of the Gospel. This eventually led to the rise and development of the deadly heresy of Gnosticism. While admitting the Deity of Jesus they denied his humanity and boasted that they alone as Gnostics ("knowing ones") had the true knowledge. They despised those who maintained true apostolic doctrine. Thus John writes to assure the believers that they are the "knowing ones", having the knowledge of Christ. In chapters one and two he applies the truth that "God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all" to the believer's walk. Chapters three and four show that if a believer has true knowledge of God he will walk in love toward God and the brethren. The key thought in chapter five is "He that hath the Son hath life".

## 10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as the Word, the Son, our Advocate, our Propitiation, the Christ, the Light, Love, and Life.