1 JOHN

AUTHENTICITY

Little need be said about the genuineness of the epistle of 1 John or the fact that John is the writer because of the canonicity of this epistle is abundant, reliable, and entirely satisfactory. The evidence of its canonicity is of two kinds:

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

Early writers in the church acclaim its genuineness. It is referred to by Polycarp in the beginning of the 2nd century; it is quoted by Papias, and also by Irenaeus. Origen says, "John besides the gospel and revelation, has left us an epistle of few lines. Grant also a second, and a third; for all do not allow these to be genuine." Eusebius says, "Beside his gospel, his first epistle is universally acknowledged by those of the present time, and by ancients; but the other two are contradicted." Also, 1 John is found in the old Syriac version, probably made in the 1st century A.D. .

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

There is strong internal evidence that the same person who wrote this epistle was the writer of the gospel which bears the same name. This evidence is in the resemblance in the mode of expression and the topics referred to in the epistles. Consider the examples shown below:

<u>1 JOHN</u>	Similarities	JOHN
1:1		1:1,4,14
2:5		14:23
2:6		15:4
2:8; 3:11		13:34
2:13,14		17:3
3:1		1:12
3:2		17:24
3:8		8:44
3:13		15:20
4:9		3:16
4:12		1:18
5:13		20:31
5:14		14:14
5:20		17:2

Many words and phrases used in 1 John are used nowhere else in the entire New Testament except in the gospel of John. Some samples are: "the Word"; "joy full"; "to do the truth"; "to have sin"; the Greek word "paraclete" (Advocate); "the true light"; "new commandment"; "little children"; "begotten of God"; "no man hath beheld God at any time"; "to overcome the world"; etc.

TIME AND PLACE THE EPISTLE WAS WRITTEN

"If the testimony of such early writers as Irenaeus (a pupil of Polycarp, who was himself a student under John), who lived in the early decades of the 2nd century, may be regarded as reliable, it seems certain that John spent a number of years near the end of his life at Ephesus in Asia Minor. Inasmuch as the epistle appears to have been written by an elderly man, we are safe in attributing it to the last years of John, and hence while sojourning in Ephesus, capital of Asia.

To this conclusion most conservative scholars have come. It appeared at a time of external peace. It lacks the admonitions to fortitude under trial characteristic of other and earlier books of the New Testament. On the basis of these facts we assign it to date just prior to the great outburst of persecution under the Roman Emperor, Domitian, A.D. 94. We think it must have been written about 90 A.D." (Guy Woods Commentary on 1 John)

AUTHORSHIP

The name JOHN is from the Greek ' $I\omega \dot{\alpha} vv$ (Ioannes), a term derived from the Hebrew Jehohanan, "Jehovah is gracious". He was the son of Zebedee, a well-to-do fisherman on the Sea of Galilee (Mark 1:20; Luke 5:10), and Salome, one of the women who followed the Lord and who was with Him at His crucifixion (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40). References to "hired servants", his mother's substance (Luke 8:3), his "own house" (John 19:27), and his acquaintance with the high priest (John 18:15), might infer that he was of influence and means.

Peter and John were close, suffering imprisonment together in Jerusalem (Acts 4:3). They also went to Samaria (Acts 8) together. It is believed he went to Ephesus and from there suffered banishment to the isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:9), yet little historically is known of John. In all his writings (5 books), his name occurs only five times and all in Revelation.

RECIPIENTS

It is believed that the epistle of 1 John was sent to churches in Asia Minor where John had preached. See Revelation 1 concerning the 7 churches of Asia.

TEACHING, OBJECT, AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

It is evident from the epistle itself that there were some prevailing errors among the ones to whom the epistle was sent and it was designed to deal with these errors. It deals with some who left (2:19); it admonishes them to deal with false doctrine and false teachers (4:1); the writer dwells on the evidence of love and the characteristics of true piety; the book is replete with "I write that..."; false teachers and teaching are warned against and the admonition is to try them (4:1).

A general emphasis is placed on love in 1 John and it has been called the epistle of love. The word *LOVE* and its derivatives occur 51 times. *KNOW* also occurs often, possibly in answer to the Gnostics. Simple language prevails but deep truths are contained within them. Short, concise contrasts are found (e.g. 2:4,5; 5:19; 1:5; 3:14; 4:20; 2:15; 2:22). There are no Old Testament quotations found in this book. Familiar truths are repeated and re-emphasized.

THEME - The FAMILY OF GOD and VICTORY.

KEY WORDS: KNOW- about 35 times, WORLD- about 23 times (almost always in a bad sense), LOVE- 21 times. LIGHT- 6 times. If we truly know God and maintain fellowship with Him, then we will walk in light and walk in love- and we will not love the world.

SHORT OUTLINE (Taken from Guy Woods Commentary)

VICTORY

Ch. 1 - the way to victory over sin

Ch. 2 - victory over the evil one

Ch. 4 - the victory of love Ch. 5 - a glorious demonstration of

the victory of faith.

Ch. 3 - the victory of righteousness

DETAILED OUTLINE

1:1-4	Introduction
I.	GOD IS LIGHT - Chapters 1,2
	A. 1:5-10 - walking in the light
	B. 2:1-11 - Christ our Advocate
	C. 2:12-17 - love of the world forbidden
	D. 2:18-29 - Christ and the Antichrist
II.	GOD IS LOVE - Chapters 3,4
	A. 3:1-3 - prepared for His coming
	B. 3:4-12 - two families
	C. 3:13-24 - the life of love
	D. 4:1-10- the spirit of truth and the spirit of error
	E. 4:11-21 - abiding in love
III.	GOD IS LIFE - Chapter 5
	A. 5:1-12 - life in the Son
	B. 5:13-21 - confidence in Him

QUESTIONS ON I JOHN

INTRODUCTION - 1:1-4

- 1. Name and discuss the five descriptions of Christ in 1:1 :

Define	the word "witness" as it is used in 1:2
How we	ell was the writer qualified to be a witness? 1:1,2f
	rom other passages that Christ is eternal (existing before the beginning of time w :1,2
	the false doctrine which says that Christ is a created being just as Adam and E do they go in an effort to prove this false doctrine?
Why is	Christ called the "eternal life" in 1:2?
Why die	d John declare what he had heard and seen unto them? 1:3
	an we have fellowship with God today? 1:3,6
How ca	

GOD IS LIGHT - Chapters 1 & 2

A. Walking In The Light - 1:5-10

10. Define "message" 1:5

11. What is the meaning of "light" as used in 1:5?

12. What is the meaning of "darkness" as used in 1:5,6?

13. Has God always been "light"? Discuss. 1:5,6 (Hebrews 13:8; John 14:9)

- 14. Is it possible to *say* you are in fellowship with God and *not* really be? 1:6
- 15. Define "fellowship" 1:3,6,7 _____
- 16. Will God participate in *ANY* kind of `darkness'? 1:6 _____
- 17. What is the man who claims God's fellowship when he walks in darkness? 1:6
- 18. What must we do to have the cleansing blood of Jesus to take away our sins *after* we have obeyed the gospel? 1:7

19. Who are the "one with another" in fellowship in 1:7? (give this one careful attention)

20. What is the man who says that he has no sin? 1:8

- 21. What must we do in order to have our sins forgiven (Christians who have sinned) 1:9
- 22. To whom must we confess our sins? 1:9; James 5:16; Luke 17:4; Matthew 5:23,24; 18:15; Acts 8:22
- 23. What is our condition if we say that we have not sinned? 1:10
- 24. Whom do we make a liar if we say that we have not sinned? 1:10; Romans 3:4

B. CHRIST OUR ADVOCATE - Chapter 2:1-11

- 25. Why did John write? 2:1
- 26. What does John mean by "My little children"? 2:1

27. Define the word - ADVOCATE. 2:1

28. Define the word - PROPITIATION. 2:2 (4:10)

- 29. What does John say that Christ is for us? 2:2
- 30. What does it mean to "know" God? 2:3 (Be prepared for class discussion)
- 31. How can we know God? Who is the one who knows God? 2:3,4

- 32. What is the condition of the person who says he knows God but does not keep God's commandments? 2:3,4
- 33. How do we know we are in Him? 2:5
- 34. What about the doctrine of "once saved, always saved", or "the impossibility of apostasy"?
- 35. What does it mean to be "in him" according to 2:5*b*?
- 36. What should the person who claims to be abiding in Christ do? 2:6
- 37. What was the "old commandment" which John wrote? 2:7
- 38. What is the "new commandment" written to them, and in what respect is it "new"? 2:8
- 39. What is the "true light"? 2:8
- 40. What is the condition of a Christian who hates his brother? 2:9
- 41. What will one who loves his brother *NOT* do? 2:10
- 42. What will darkness do to a person's eyes? 2:11

How?_____

43.	What does it mean for one walking in darkness "knoweth not whither he goeth"? 2:11 Where
	IS he going?
C. C	CHRIST AND THE ANTICHRIST - Chapter 2:12-29
14.	What does "for his name's sake" mean? 2:12
45.	Discuss the difference between the "little children", the "young men", and the "fathers" of
	2:12-14.
46.	Discuss WHY John wrote to: 2:12-14
	a. the little children
	b. the fathers
	c. the young men
17.	Name and discuss the three basic ways in which the word "world" is used in the Bible.
18.	How is "world" used in 2:15?
10.	

Show the similarities between 2:15 and Matthew 6:24.
Name and discuss the three ways man can be tempted to sin. 2:16 1.
1.
2
3.
What is meant by "the world passeth away"? 2:17
How does the lust of the world pass away? 2:17
While the world passes away, what about the one who keeps on doing the will of God? 2:17
To what does "last hour" {time KJV} refer in 2:18?
Give a brief definition of the word "antichrist".
How did John know that they (antichrists) were not <i>of</i> them? 2:19
What must be the stirting ACW) from (1. H. L. O. 2020)
What was the "unction" (anointing, ASV) from the Holy One? 2:20

Why did John say that he had written to them in 2:21?	
Relate "he who denieth the Son" to those false teachers with whom Joh	
	n had to contend.
How can we have the Father? 2:23	
What is our condition if we confess <i>NOT</i> the Son? 2:23 Matthew 10:32,	.33
What is it that is to abide in them, which they had heard? 2:24	
If "it" abides in us, what is our condition? 2:24	
In 2:24, what did he mean by abiding in the Son?	
Do we have eternal life right now? How do you know? 2:25; Rom. 8:24	ff
Where is eternal life? Mark 10:30	
In what sense can one have eternal life <i>NOW</i> ? 5:11,13 (Titus 1:2)	

- 70. Is it necessary to warn brethren about false teachers? 2:26
- 71. What is this anointing that abideth in the Christian? 2:27
- 72. What "teacheth" the Christians here concerning all things? 2:27
- 73. How can Christians *KNOW* that they abide in Christ? 2:27
- 74. What does it mean to "abide in him"? 2:28
- 75. If we abide in him, what can we do when He comes? 2:28
- 76. Discuss the idea of being "barely saved" or whether one can *KNOW* he is saved. 2:28 (1 Peter 4:18)

- 77. Who is the one born or begotten of God? 2:29
- 78. What does it mean to "do righteousness"? 2:29
- 79. What does John mean by, "If ye know that he is righteous"? 2:29

II. GOD IS LOVE -- Chapters 3 & 4

A. 3:1-3 - prepared for His coming

80. Discuss "the manner of love" which God bestowed on saints that they may be called sons (or children-ASV) of God. 3:1_____

Ι.	Why does the world not know the saints? (John 15:19)	
2.	How shall the sons of God be one day? 3:2	
3.	What does the person who has his hope set on God do? 3:3	
1.	What does it mean to purify yourself? 3:3	
5.	B. 3:4-12 - two families Define SIN in: 1 John 3:4	
	_1 John 5:17	
	James 4:17	
	Romans 14:23	
	What do we do whenever we sin? 3:4	
	Why did Christ come to the earth? 3:5	
•	Name as many other passages as you can to prove that Christ was sinless. 3:5	
	What does it mean to ABIDE in Christ 3:6	
).	How can one keep from sinning? 3:6	

- 91. "Abideth" is a favorite expression of John. It possibly was suggested to him by the Lord. (John 15:4-6). Study other passages on this word and be prepared to discuss them in class. John 5:38; 6:56; 14:10; 15:4-7,9,10;1 John 3:6,24; 4:12,13,15,16.
- 92. What does "Whosever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him" mean in 3:6?
- 93. Who is the man who is righteous? 3:7
- 94. What does John mean by "do righteousness" in 3:7
- 95. What is John warning against in 3:7?
- 96. From 3:7 would you say that it is possible to fall from grace?
- 97. Who is the one of the devil? 3:8
- 98. What does "beginning" refer to in 3:8?
- 99. Why did Christ come? 3:8
- 100. What are the works of the Devil? 3:8
- 101. What is "his seed" which abides in a person who is begotten of God? 3:9

(Note: 1 Peter 1:23 ;KJV-born of God, ASV-begotten of God)

102. Does 3:9 teach that it is impossible for a child of God to commit a single act of sin? Prove your answer from other Scriptures (See also 1 John 1:7-9; 2:1) (Note: A basic rule of Bible study is to understand the difficult Scriptures in the light of the easy ones - 2 Peter 3:16) 103. What keeps a person from committing sin? 3:9 (Psalm 119:11) 104. What is it that the one who is born (begotten) of God cannot do and why? 3:9 How can you tell the difference between a child of God and a child of the devil? 3:10 105. What is the condition of one who loves not his brother? 3:10 106. What message was plain all the time? 3:11 107. 108. Why did Cain slay his brother? 3:12 What was the apparent motive for sin in Cain's heart? 3:12 109. 110. Who directs all to sin? 3:12

C. 3:13-24 - the life of love.

WHY? What does it mean to pass out of death into life? 3:14 What is one indication of spiritual life and one of spiritual d How do we know from 3:15 that murder is wrong? How does God judge the heart? 3:15	leath? 3:14
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How do we know from 3:15 that murder is wrong?	
How does God judge the heart? 3:15	
Define "hate". 3:15	
What does "eternal life abiding in him" mean? 3:15	
How do we know that Christ loves us? 3:16	
How much should we love the brethren? 3:16	
Be prepared to discuss the apostles' love and our love today What is one way we can demonstrate our love for needy bro	

Define "bowels of compassion". (ASV- compassion) 3:17
Contrast and define the ways we ARE and are NOT to love. 3:18
How can we know we are of the truth? 3:19
What does it mean to be "of the truth"? 3:19
Can we be right if our heart condemns us? 3:20
How can one have boldness toward God? 3:21
What is the "heart" of 3:21?
What must we do in order to have God answer our prayers? 3:22
Name some passages which teach that God does <i>NOT</i> hear [that is <i>heed</i> } the prayers of those who are not in covenant relationship with Him.

130.	What is God's command for us? 3:23
131.	How can one abide in Christ according to 3:24?
132.	What does it mean to abide in Christ in this context?
133.	What does it mean to "die in the Lord"? Revelation 14:13
134.	How do we <i>KNOW</i> God abideth in us? 3:24 Discuss in class.
135.	D. 4:1-10 - The spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Are we supposed to believe everything we hear? 4:1
136.	How can you tell one who is of God? 4:2
137.	Define the "antichrist" 4:2,3
38.	Is the antichrist still in the world today? 4:3
.39.	Who is He that is in the Christian? 4:4
40.	What causes one to overcome? 4:4
41.	Why do some speak as the world? 4:5

To whom does the world listen?
Whom do those who know God listen to? 4:6
How do we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error? 4:6
Who is the one who is born of God? 4:7
Of whom is "love"? 4:7
What <i>IS</i> God? 4:8
Does this mean that God does not <i>hate</i> anything, or that God will not punish those who persist in sin?
What is the condition of one who loveth not? 4:8
Whom does God love? Jn. 3:16
How did God manifest this love? 4:9,10
Who loved first, us or God? 4:10
E. 4:11-21 - Abiding in Love
Why should we love one another? 4:11
Has anyone ever seen God? 4:12 Explain.
What indicates God's love perfected in us? 4:12

According to 4:13, how can we know God abideth in us?
What does "given us of His Spirit" mean? (4:13)
John says God dwells in us - Paul says that dwells in our hearts (Ephesians 3:17). HOW does He do this?
Likewise the dwells in the Christian (Romans 8:9,11).
Does any one member of the Godhead (Colossians 2:9) dwell in the saint in a way that is DIFFERENT from the other members? If so, HOW?
Who is it that could "bear witness" to the fact that the Father had sent the Son as the Saviour of the world?
Confessing that Jesus is the Son of God is evidence that
(4:15) What does it mean to "confess Christ" (Matthew 10:32,33; 1 John 4:15)?
There are three "indwellings" in 4:16. Name them:
How are we to be "in this world" (4:17)? In what way?
What is it that causes us to be able to have boldness in the day of Judgement?4:17
What does "perfect love" do? 4:18 Explain.

What type of "fear" is under consideration in 4:18?
Is there a type of "fear" that we are to have for God? If so, name it
Whenever great fear is in the heart of a person relative to eternal judgement, what is the person's condition? 4:18
Who "first loved"? 4:19
How do we reciprocate? 4:19
Why is it that a brother cannot <i>LOVE GOD</i> and <i>HATE HIS BROTHER</i> at the same time 4:20 Give reasons.
Does this mean <i>EVERY</i> brother or just <i>SOME</i> brethren?
What is the one who claims to love God and hates a brother? 4:20
What is the commandment of God in 4:21?
GOD IS LIFE - Chapter 5
A. 5:1-12 - Life In The Son
Who is "born" (begotten) of God? 5:1
Who is "born" of God according to 2:29; 4:7?
Harmonize these thoughts with Galatians 5:6

Whom does the Christian love who "begot"? 5:1
What is the clear evidence that we love the children of God? 5:2
What <i>IS</i> the "love of God"? 5:3
What is meant by God's commandments are not grievous? Define grievous.
Discuss the condition of the person who looks at God's commands as being grievous.
How can we overcome the world? 5:4
What does it mean to overcome the world? 5:5
Discuss the meaning of Christ coming by water and blood in 5:6.
Who is spoken of as bearing witness in 5:6?
What is the Spirit called here? 5:6
Who are the three that bear record or witness? 5:7(KJV)
In what way are these three one? 5:7

	Where do these three bear witness or record? 5:7
	Name and discuss the three that bear witness on earth. Identify each. 5:8
-	
	Whose witness is greater? 5:9
	What is the witness of God? 5:9
	How can a person have the witness of God in him? 5:10
-	What about the person who does <i>NOT</i> believe? 5:10; Romans 3:4
-	
	Where is eternal life to be found? 5:11
	How can one have life? 5:12
-	What kind of "life" is this referring to? 5:12
	B. 5:13-21 - Confidence In Him
	In what sense does a child of God have eternal life? 5:13
-	How must we pray? 5.14
	Matthew 6:10; 26:39
-	Why is it that some ask and receive not? James 4:3

203.	On what basis do we expect to receive our requests? 5:15
204.	What is a SIN NOT UNTO DEATH? 5:16; 1:9
205.	What is the sin unto death? 5:16; 1:9; Acts 8:22
206.	Why should we not pray for one committing a sin unto death? 5:16,17
207.	What should we do for the ones committing a sin unto death?
208.	What must we do in order to keep the evil one from touching us?5:18
209.	What is meant by "Whosoever is born of God sinneth not"?5:18
210.	Where does the world lie? 5:19
211.	What does it mean to be "of the world"?
212.	How do we have an understanding of the true God? 5:20
213.	Define idolatry. 5:21
214.	How can we guard ourselves from idolatry? 5:21