

## 1 John 1 – Faithful Instruction to God’s Church

**Authorship:** The church has taken the author to be John the Apostle, and the epistle was probably written late in his life at Ephesus. It’s main themes are God’s love, the juxtaposition of light and darkness, how we may have fellowship with God and how we may know if our fellowship is genuine or not.

1. The beginning of John’s first epistle is very different from many of the other letters in the Bible. How does John introduce His subject? What is His subject? What other books of the Bible begin in the same way? See John 1:1-5 for some striking parallels. What evidence does John give you that he has the ability to speak on this subject? In what ways does John propose to share what he has heard, seen and handled? And what is his purpose in sharing it? How does one share in this fellowship? (See John 15:10-11) (v. 1-4)
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2. What is the message John heard from God? What does this message mean? Who shared this message with John? See John 8:12 for some striking parallels. What does it mean to have fellowship with God and with Christ? See John 14:22-24. What does it mean to walk in darkness or in the light? See Pr 2:11-15 and Eph 5:5-11. (v. 5-7)
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3. Verses 8 and 10 form the bookends to one of the most beautiful thoughts in the Scriptures. What do these bookends tell us? See Ps 51:3-4 and Rom 6:23. Why is it so important that we know and understand this? See Rom 7:23-24. What does God promise to those who confess their sin? See also Ps 32:5 and Pr 28:13. (v. 8-10)
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