

1 John 1

- Man up!
- Special Mission
- 1 John Series

Introduction to the book

- Written around 85-95 A.D.
- Author is John the Apostle the Son of Zebedee. He may have been the first cousin of Jesus, his mother was Salome possibly a sister of Mary.
- The easiest identification of John's authorship is Irenaeus church father who designated John as the writer.
- Similar expressions of John and 1 John.
- The eye witness account.
- Most of the Apostles were not living anymore.
- Recipients were not mentioned but most probably was Province of Asia.
- **Third Generational Christians** were now in the church. The newest was fading. They had to dig deeper.
- The destruction of the Temple and Jews were devastated.
- **Little children** is said 9 times
- **Love** is used 22 times in this book.
- **Know** is used 42 times.
- Gnosticism was a heresy that was infiltrating the church at a rapid rate.
 1. Man's body which is matter is therefore evil.
 2. Salvation is the escape from the body, achieved not by faith in Christ but by special knowledge - Gnosis - greek word for knowledge
 3. Christ true humanity denied in two ways.
 - A. Only seemed to be in the body - Muslim understanding of the cross.
 - B. Christ joined the man Jesus at baptism and left him before he died.
(Cerinthus taught this)
 4. Since the body was considered evil, it was to be treated harshly. This ascetic form of Gnosticism is the background of part of the letter of Colossians.
 5. Paradoxically this dualism also led to licentiousness. The reason was that since matter and not the break of God's law was considered evil, breaking his law was not moral consequence.

This doctrine was invented by demons - 1 Timothy 4:1

- **Gnosticism** believed that all matter was evil. And only spirit could be good.

Three types of reactions to this belief in gnosticism.

1. Asceticism - the body is evil so punish it and starve it and suppress it. This runs over in other religions such as buddhism and hinduism.

2. Hedonism - a pursuit of pleasure, sensual self-indulgence. The body is evil and all this is important is spirit and "knowing" so therefore it is ok to indulge.

3. Being above all sin - These regarded themselves as having shed all material things of life and having released his spirit from the bondage of matter. Such gnostics help that they were completely above sin, that sin for them has ceased to exist and they have reached spiritual perfection. It is in to them John refers when he speaks of those who deceive themselves by saying that they have not sin. **1 John 1:8**

Hidden knowledge that the apostles told others in secret. The apostles heard things from Jesus that they did not tell others and now we are relaying

That obviously poses a problem because than all that God has made has been would be evil. That means that God created evil. But that is not the case because what God made was perfect and when man and angels chose to go their own way they transgressed.

We love to blame God for everything. Well why did he make us like this? Why did he allow the devil to exist if he knew we would end up like this?

“The woman YOU put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

The woman answered:

“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

I love how the serpent didn't answer back to God. Satan knew the truth and knows the truth. He knew that God was not at fault he knew that God was not to blame!

Wars, Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Climate change, Sin, drugs, rape, murder, whose to blame? Whose to blame for being lost, for not making it to heaven, for not getting right with God? Whose to blame for being lazy, not

Why don't we look in the mirror and take responsibility?

- Why does good things happen to bad people?

- Because we live in a fallen world that God created to be good and perfect and we were told to govern it and we didn't do a good job.

- Why do we blame God?

He sent his Son into this world to save us. Firefighter analogy and cigarette example.

1. The Word Became Flesh

John is saying that he actually touched and saw and ate with Jesus.

John 1:1-3, 14,

Jesus was in the beginning, Jesus was with God and Jesus was God! He was with God in the beginning. The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.”

Genesis 1:1 - “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

1 John 1:1-4

This is essential that we understand that Jesus was in human form.

“For in Christ all the fullness of Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ have you been brought to fullness.” **Colossians 2:9**

1 John 1:1-4

Maybe this doesn't seem so important to you or maybe it doesn't seem like a big deal but this false doctrine was going to hurt the faith deeply because if Christ was not in human form but only a spirit being that appeared to be human than he did not suffer on the cross, did not die for our sins and therefore did not raise from the dead.

Let's continue to read 1 John 1:5-10

2. Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

Darkness stands for the Christless life, dark is light, dark stands for ignorance, darkness stands for chaos of life, immortality of Christless life, unfruitfull works of darkness, darkness lovelessness.

John was going after the hedonistic stance of the gnostic teachers. You cannot claim to walk as Jesus did and continue to walk in darkness. God is light in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness we live and do not live out the truth.

But if we we walk in the light as he is the light - WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP with ONE another and the blood of Jesus his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

AMEN - Going after those that thought **they were above sin or greater** because of their knowledge. Knowledge is great and important, knowing what to do is half the battle doing it is really proves how much you know the truth and know Jesus.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
Why would we need Jesus or his death?

But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Confession is more than just getting something off your chest although that is important for conscience sake. But confession is an acknowledgment that I NEED JESUS and I NEED HELP to HEAL AND REPENT!

James 5:16

If we claim to we have **not sinned** we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. This was the claim that some Gnostics made. We are above sin and because of this knowledge we have arrived at a higher state spiritually.

John said - you are liar and the truth is not in you. And his word is not in you. Jesus being the word!

I love the song - Nothing but the blood of Jesus! Read the lyrics.