

FIRST JOHN  
EXPOSITIONAL NOTES

**Exposition**

**I. Fellowship with the Father is based on acceptance of the Apostles' testimony which is authoritative because they were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and ministry (1:1–4).**

**A.** The Apostles were eyewitnesses of Jesus, the Word of Life (1:1).

**B.** The eternal life that was with the Father was revealed to the Apostles and proclaimed by them (1:2).

**C.** The apostles have made known the revelation eternal life in order to bring men into shared relationship with the Apostles, who have a shared relationship with the Father and the Son (1:3).

**D.** The Apostolic desire is fulfilled when the readers continue to receive their message of Jesus as the fullness of the Father's revelation in the Old Testament (1:4).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Points A–D are adapted from, Charles P. Baylis, "1 John: Book Background (Why?)," <http://thebiblicalstory.org/baylis/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/1Jnlca071015ch1.pdf> (accessed September 4, 2016), 10–13.

- II.** Access to the Father and eternal life requires accepting the Apostle's gospel of belief in Jesus Christ for forgiveness ("walking in the Light") and rejecting the false teachers' way of self-justification ("walking in darkness"), and results in a godly life of love (1:5–2:27).
- A.** The Apostles proclaim that God is light (life) and in him there is no darkness (death) (1:5).
  - B.** The Apostles' proclamation is to be evaluated based on its consistency with God's revelation of forgiveness in the Son (1:6–7).
  - C.** The Apostles proclamation is that people are sinners who need forgiveness, which is consistent with God's revelation (1:8–10).
  - D.** The purpose of encouraging believers to hold to the gospel is that they won't sin, and that they will look to Jesus for forgiveness when they do sin (2:1–2).
  - E.** Knowing God is dependent upon keeping His commandments (2:3–6).
  - F.** The result of having God's character through belief in the Son is love for fellow believers (2:7–11).

- G.** The result of belief in the Son is forgiveness of sins, fellowship with the Father, and victory over the evil one (2:12–14).
  
- H.** Since those who have believed in the Son have the Father’s love in them, they must reject the love of the things that oppose God (2:15–17).
  
- I.** Those who have believed that Jesus is the Christ know the truth and must reject those who lie by rejecting Jesus as the Christ (2:18–27).

- III.** Imputed righteousness and membership in the “Family of God” is accessed through belief in Jesus Christ according to the Apostolic gospel and witness of the Spirit, and results in love of God and love of the brethren (2:28–4:6).
- A.** Those who believe in Christ become children of God and are purified, which will be revealed in the end (2:28–3:3).
- B.** The children of God and the children of the devil are distinguished and contrasted (3:4–3:10).
- C.** Abiding in God means believing in His Son and loving one’s brothers (3:11–24).
- D.** The Spirit of truth confesses that Jesus is the Christ and confirms the apostles message, the spirit of error denies both (4:1–6).

- IV.** Since believers have experienced God's love in His Son, which is validated by the OT and the Spirit, they will also love one another and keep His commandments (4:7–5:12).
- A.** Those who have experienced God's love in the gospel should follow God's example and love others (4:7–12).
- B.** Abiding in God is dependent on believing the Apostles, who have been given the Spirit, and confessing that Jesus is the Son of God and loving others (4:13–16).

- C.** When believers remain in God's love demonstrated in the gospel they do not fear God's judgment and are able to love their fellow believer (4:17–21).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D.** When one believes in the Son they will love their fellow believer and thus obey God's commandments, which results in overcoming the world (5:1–5).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- E.** God has given ample testimony that eternal life is found in His Son, Jesus Christ, and whoever believes this testimony has eternal life (5:6–12).

**V.** Summary: Exhortations to those who obey the revelation in Jesus (5:13–21).

**A.** Believers in Jesus Christ should intercede for brothers and sisters in Christ (5:13–17).

**B.** Believers in Jesus Christ have confidence that God will protect them from the evil one and confidence that they have eternal life (5:18–21).