

First John

1 Jn. 1:1-4



Sonship



Fellowship



Fruitfulness

1 Jn. 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Author – The Holy Spirit

Writer – The Apostle John

Date – c. A. D. 89

CHARACTERISTICS

The Epistle is not a polemic primarily, but a letter for the edification of the readers in the truth and the life in Christ.

John is contemplative rather than argumentative.

"John's pen is a surgeon's knife, not a philosopher's quill." J. Sidlow Baxter,
Explore the Book, 6:324.



OUTLINE

Chiasmus

Ron Bigalke saw the structure of 1 John as being chiasmic:

"A Prologue: Eternal Life (1:1-4)

B Three Witnesses (1:5—2:2) (*to deny sin is to make God a liar*) (*walk*)

C The love of God and the believer (2:3-17)

D False christs (2:18-27)

E Believer's confidence (2:28—3:10) (*do not sin*)

F Love proves abiding (3:11-18)

E' Believer's confidence (3:19-24) (*do keep God's commands*)

D' False prophets (4:1-6)

C' The love of God and the believer (4:7-21)

B' Three Witnesses (5:1-12) (*to deny Jesus is to make God a liar*) (*testimony*)

A' Epilogue: Eternal life (5:13-21)" [\[16\]](#)



MESSAGE

- Sonship – 1 Jn. 5:13 **These things have I written** unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
- Fellowship with God – 1 Jn. 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship** with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- Key words = light, love, life, know, abide



I. GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN – LIVING AT HOME IN THE SPHERE WHERE THE FATHER IS LOVED, 1:1-3:24

A. How We Share the Family Life, 1:1-2:29

1. The Beginning of that Life, 1:1-4

a. Some Tangible Evidence, 1:1

1 Jn. 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;



Jn. 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1 Cor. 13:10 But when **that which** is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

b. Some Transmitted Evidence, 1:2

1 Jn. 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)



c. Some Tested Evidence, 1:3-4

(1) Good News, 1:3

(a) How true it all is, 1:3a

1 Jn. 1:3 “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship with us...**”

(b) How tremendous it all is, 1:3b
“...and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”



(2) Glad News, 1:4

1 Jn. 1:4 And these things write we unto you, **that your joy may be full.**

3 Jn. 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Jn. 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and **that your joy might be full.**

Jn. 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, **that your joy may be full.**





Conclusion

Jn. 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.



9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you:
continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.