

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Love One Another

30K' view of 1 John

The older you get, it seems that your priorities become filtered. When you are young, you worry about everything, BUT as you experience joys & sorrows, victories & losses, what's really important begins to be refined... And this is what we see with 1 John.

Author: Likely the Apostle John, I say "likely" because he does not sign the letter but the style and grammar use is so similar to the Gospel of John, that most agree it's the Apostle whom Jesus loved.

He wrote later in life. Church history tells us that he was a Pastor in Ephesus at the end of his years after his time exiled in Patmos. (*Mention Gnosticism*)

So we have great grandpa John sharing his heart to the family of faith. And the audience he writes to is just that... 1. Christians. (**1 John 2:21**) 2. Who he sees as family (**1 John 2:12-14**)

His purpose he outlines in the writing itself. And we see a tie to the Gospel. In John he writes

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

-Believing in the person and work of Jesus leads to life. How do you know? What does that life look like over time?

-1 John 5:13

He hangs his hat on true major truths about God. They are foundational to the truths and commands we will see as we explore this letter.

-1 John 1:5, [God is Light](#)

-1 John 4:8 & 16, [God is LOVE](#)

Based on these... he shows us how to walk, **Read 1 John 2:6**

And there are 6 things that spiral throughout the letter. **Light and Love.**

And then...

"I write these things... and there are 4 ways to "walk"

1 John 1:4- [JOY](#)

1 John 2:1- [Holiness](#)

1 John 2:26- [Truth](#)

1 John 5:13- [Assurance](#)

Joy, holiness, truth leading to our assurance of eternal life!

Giving us freedom to [LOVE ONE ANOTHER!](#)

"The blessed John the Evangelist lived in Ephesus until extreme old age. His disciples could barely carry him to church and he could not muster the voice to speak many words. During individual gatherings he usually said nothing but, "Little children, love one another." The disciples and brothers in attendance, annoyed because they always heard the same words, finally said, 'Teacher, why do you always say this?' He replied with a line worthy of John: 'Because it is the Lord's commandment and if it alone is kept, it is sufficient.'" Jerome's Commentary on Galatians, 6:10