

**1 John: How to Be Sure**  
**2024-04-14**

**1 John 5:13**

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*

**All Christians struggle with assurance...** 1 John was **written to reassure true believers.**

- **Assurance comes from believing Gospel truth, growing obedience, brotherly love.**

Author: **apostle John**, also **wrote Gospel book John**. 1 John was written **85-95 AD and is among last New Testament books written.** See outline at the end.

- **Three themes repeat 3 times throughout 1 John: theological truth regarding Jesus, Christian obedience, love for brother.**

**Eternal life in Jesus Christ, who has come in the flesh** 1 John 1:1-2, 2:21-22, 4:1-3, 5:11-12

- **Gnostic theology: All matter is evil, spirit is good. Knowledge (gnosis) solves tension.**

**Two false theories that "improve" Christianity.... both distortions of Jesus' humanity.**

- "Jesus" as a human was **physical but the "Christ-spirit" came upon Him at His baptism, and left before death, so "Christ-spirit" never suffered.**
- **Jesus' ghost...hologram like Tupac at Coachella in 2012...Even though Tupac died in 1996.**

**One must believe GOSPEL TRUTH about Jesus Christ for assurance of salvation!**

- These **lies struck at heart of Gospel: Hypostatic union, incarnation, substitutionary death, and fellowship with Jesus possible.... fellowship with people, not holograms.**

John, the **only apostle still alive...knew Jesus well: Testifies Jesus was fully God and fully man**, and that we **can have intimate fellowship and relationship with the Lord.** 1 John 1:3-4, 2:28

- The word "fellowship" is used **9 times in the Bible...4 out of 9 times it's used in 1 John**, which means very close friendship, or to do life together.
  - **"Abide(s)" relates to fellowship.** It's used **47 times** in the Bible and used 23 times in **1 John**.
    - Are your quiet times **devotions or DEVOTION?**

**Fruit of abiding and fellowship with Jesus is transformed living.**

- If **Jesus is in you, you can't go on living in sin.** 1 John 1:5-6, 2:3-4, 15b, 3:9

Gnosticism: **complete abstinence** (material things being evil) or **unlimited indulgence** (nothing can affect spiritual standing w/God) .... Essentially **legalism or license.**

- John is **clear: there is right and wrong: Jesus Christ and anti-Jesus Christ's, light and dark, loving the Father or loving the world.**

- **Genuine faith produces God honoring obedience.**

**God has given us everything we need to obey Him.... Holy Spirit:**

- **WILL bear fruit of obey if you abide** in Jesus Christ. 4:13, 5:13
  - **Contradiction between profession and practice causes doubt of salvation.**

**It's difficult to consistently produce actions that verify faith in Jesus Christ.**

- **Heart's desire to obey** but we have an **advocate** when we **choose sin** over God. 1 John 2:1-3

**Saving faith believes and trusts Gospel truth, and that belief produces visible evidence of growing obedience and brotherly love. 1 John 2:11, 3:10, 16, 4:7, 5:1**

- **Love of God for us is the prerequisite and foundation for loving others.**
  - **ALL love agape:** love based on **will**, not emotions...**aimed** at those who are **hard to love!**
    - **Anyone can love** someone who is **lovable....** It takes special **effort to love** those who **hate you**, mistreat, **speak ill**, or attack you....
      - **That's the kind of love Jesus had for us. 1 John 4:10-12, 19-21, Romans 5:8, 10**
  - **Heart and conscience testify** if we really **practice what we profess....** that we **love one another** and the **LOST as God**, in Jesus Christ, **loved us.**

**Oneness with Jesus enables lives** that are characterized by **truth**, obedience, and love.

- **Assurance of eternal life** comes from **believing Gospel truth** about Jesus (God and man, hypostatic union, incarnation, atonement) **with visible evidence of growing obedience and brotherly love.**
  - **Truth meaningless** if it **doesn't change behavior.**

### Outline of 1 John

- 1:1-4 INTRODUCTION
- 1:5-2:27 LIGHT AND DARKNESS
  - 1:5-2:11 Walk in the Light
  - 2:12-17 Escaping from Sin
  - 2:18-27 Counsel for the Last Hour
- 2:28-3:10 THE LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
- 3:11-5:12 GOD IS LOVE
  - 3:11-15 Love against Hate
  - 3:16-18 Love and Generosity
  - 3:19-24 Assurance
  - 4:1-6 Spirit of God and the Antichrist
- 4:7-5:12 Love is Perfected in Us
- 5:13-21 CONCLUSION