

...Love John

A look at the letters of John



Overview

(Explainer)



What?

- John's gospel
- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John



What?

- Quite possibly single author
 - 1 John written as from a single person
 - Similarities of language and thought between gospel and 1 John
 - Similarities between 1 John and 2 John
 - Similarities between 2 John and 3 John



Who?

- John the Apostle
- Eyewitness to Jesus
- Internal evidence of style and language
- External evidence of other writers eg Irenaeus, Dionysius of Alexandria, Tertullian



When

- c85-95AD
- Early form of gospel written first
- Then the letters
- Then revised form of gospel after John died



Where?

- John based in Ephesus
- Letters written to churches in region around Ephesus
- Churches who were part of a Johannine stream/network





Why?

- Group of travelling teachers who denied that Jesus was the Son of God come in the flesh, denied the power of Jesus' death, claimed sinlessness, not showing love to believers
- Confusion and concern/fear amongst believers – “are we really Christians?”



Why?

- Author(s) writing to
 - Encourage believers
 - Warn against false teaching and teachers



Central message

...this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

1 John 3:23



1 John 1:1-4



1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make your joy complete.



It's all about Jesus

- “The same Jesus I talked about in my gospel”



1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

14 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.

John 1



It's all about Jesus

- Never lose sight of the historical person of Jesus – the person we saw with our own eyes, who examined closely, who we touched
- The Word came in flesh
- Experience of Jesus not just a theory



It's all about Love

God's love for us

- God's fellowship with us, reaching into our situation



It's all about Love

Our love for one another

- fellowship with us (1 John 1:3)
- I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another (2 John 5)
- I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face (2 John 12)



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