

The Message of 1 John: THE REAL THING

October 12, 2025

TEXT—1 John 1:1-4

BACKGROUND/THEME—1 John is believed to be written by John, son of Zebedee, the apostle and author of the Gospel of John and the Revelation (around 90-95 AD). He was a first cousin of Jesus. John had 2 purposes in writing this letter: 1-exposing false teachers and 2-giving followers of Christ assurance of salvation. False teachers, called Gnostics, taught that Jesus was only spiritual and not a physical being denying the humanity and deity of Jesus. John refuted this claim showing it's a different Gospel that can't save but will lead people to eternity without Christ in hell.

1 John can be outlined: 1-Walking in God's light (**1:1-2:14**); 2- Practicing God's truth (**2:15-3:10, 4:1-6**); 3-Living in God's love (**3:11-24, 4:7-21**).

1. THE DOCTRINAL TEST: Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God who came from heaven and lived in

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human flesh? God's word teaches that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ), the unique Son of God, born of a virgin (i.e. fully man and fully God). You must believe this to be a follower of Christ (**See 1 Jn. 1:1-3; 4:1-3, 14-15**).

***If you believe Jesus is the Messiah, then you are a child of God. If you don't you are not a child of God!**

MEMORY VERSE—1 Jn. 5:13

1 Jn.5:10-12

Are you trusting in Christ Alone (i.e. who is and what He's done on the cross and through His resurrection) to save you? Do you have the Son? Does the Son have you?

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2. THE MORAL TEST: Do you obey commands of God? If someone claims to know Jesus Christ but does not obey Him, that person's words are false. The evidence of genuine faith in Christ is a life that obeys God's commands. **1 Jn.2:3-6**

*Though our obedience isn't perfect, it's real and normal as we pursue holy living (i.e. walking in the light-**1 Jn.1:5-7**). **1 Jn.2:15-17**

*The children of God contrasted with the children of the devil is another metaphor for those who habitually obey Christ versus those who don't (**1 Jn.2:29-3:3, contrast 3:9-10**). **Mt.7:21-23**

*This isn't sinless perfection, but it is a God-ward direction towards Christ! **1 Jn.5:1-3**

Does obedience to God's word and Christlike character describe your life?

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3. THE LOVE TEST: Do you love the people of God? John clearly states that the true follower of Christ: believes Jesus is the Messiah, practices living by God's commands, and is marked by loving God's people. **1 Jn.4:7-21**

*Showing Christ's sacrificial agape love to others is a way we can be sure that God has really changed our hearts (**See 1 Jn.3:16-20**).

3 Blessings that result from applying the truths in 1 John: Joy (1 Jn.1:4), Holiness (1 Jn.2:1), and Security (1 Jn.5:13).

Look to Jesus!