

1 JOHN

- **Author:** John, disciple whom Jesus loved (Jn 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20)
 - **Background:** 85-95 AD
 1. Synoptic Gospels of Matthew (Prophecies), Mark (Power), & Luke (Parables) written 50-70 AD
 2. John's Gospel emphasizes Person of Christ (80-90 AD)
 - *Equal to God (signs, relation to Father)*
 - *Nature of Christ (God and Man)*
 - **Content:** Refuting Gnosticism (a false teaching)
 1. Matter (therefore man's body) is evil & spirit (therefore God) is good
 2. Jesus didn't have body (just "seemed" to) OR
 - *Was man only at birth*
 - *Was God & man at baptism (Spirit came as dove)*
 - *Was man only again at death ("Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit.")*
 3. Sinning isn't evil—matter is
 4. Salvation is escaping body by knowledge of this, taught to select few (not faith in Jesus for all)
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- **Proclamation of Church (1:1-4)**
 1. What—Jesus (1-2; Jn 6:69; 20:30-31; Co 1:28)
 - *True God from beginning (Ge 1:1-3; Jn 1:1-3)*
 - *True Man—heard, seen, touched*
 - *Word (Jn 1:1-3)—in Greek philosophy, "logos" referred to rational principle of order & knowledge, governing cosmos*
 2. Why—fellowship (3-4)
 - *With God (Co 1:21-23)*
 - *With believers (Ac 2:42-47)*
 - Edification of spirit (1 Co 14:26)
 - Support for soul (1 Co 12:26)
 - Care for bodily needs (Ph 4:13-19)
 - *Brings joy (Lk 2:10)—gladness in spiritual reality over external reality*
 - **Walking in God's Light as disciple (1:5-2:11; Jn 8:12)**
 1. Confession vs. Denial (1:9, Nu 32:23; Ga 6:7)
 - *Honesty in claims with others, self, & God (1:6, 8, 10)*
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LOVE LESSON 1 • GOD'S LOVE

- **Initiating (Ro 5:8; 1 Jn 4:10)**
- **Unconditional (Ep 2:4-5)**
 1. All other religions work oppositely (conditionally)
- **To be shared (1 Jn 4:7, 11, 19)**
 1. Factors in our capacity to love
 - *Our personality*
 - *Our upbringing (love shown as child)*
 - *Our reaction to circumstances (Flesh vs. Spirit)*
- **Remember**
 1. Child of God with Spirit (Ep 5:1-2; Ga 5:22)
 2. Event + Attitude (Flesh vs. Spirit) = Reaction
 3. Responder or Initiator? (Mt 5:46-47)