

Purpose

To confront the false doctrines of Gnosticism and to confirm the faith of true Christians

Author

The Apostle John

To Whom Written

The letter is untitled and was written to no particular church. It was sent as a pastoral letter to several Gentile congregations.

Date Written

Probably between 85-90 AD from Ephesus

Setting

John was perhaps the only surviving apostle at this time. He had not yet been banished to Patmos, where he would live in exile. As an eyewitness of Christ, he wrote authoritatively to give new generations of believers assurance in their faith

Key Verse

"I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life." *1 John 5:13*

Special Feature

John is the apostle of love, and love is mentioned throughout this letter.

An Overview (5 Chapters)

- God Is Light (*1:1-2:29*)
- God Is Love (*3:1-4:21*)
- God Is Life (*5:1-21*)

Major Themes

- *Tests*: While John does not use the word "tests," he provides some helpful traits to identify those who are genuine and pretending believers.
- *Love*: Of the "tests" or traits that John provides, in order to discern one's conversion to Christ, the most recognizable is love. True believers will not be able to contain their love for the Lord or for other people. Since God is love, His people will be characterized by love.