

# FIRST JOHN

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True Christianity // 1 John 1:1-4

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# Background

- Written around 85-90AD by the Apostle John
- John, the Apostle:
  - Brother to James
  - Fisherman
  - One of the original 12 disciples
  - Around 80 years old when 1 JN was written
  - Last surviving apostle
  - One of Jesus' closest friends
  - John the Beloved (Jn. 13:23; 20:2)
  - Died of natural causes
  - Author of 5 NT books (Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3 John, and Revelation)



# Background

- John, the Apostle:
  - Not listed in letter as author—however, historically believed to be Apostle John:

- STYLE

At least 10 identical phrases of Gospel of John  
found in 1 John

- SUBSTANCE

John was only eyewitness still living around date of letter

- SOURCES

*ALL* early church fathers agree  
authorship belongs to John

# Background

- The Book of 1 John:
  - Five reasons WHY John wrote this letter:
    1. So we may have FELLOWSHIP (1:3)
    2. So we may have JOY (1:4)
    3. So we may not SIN (2:1)
    4. So we may not be DECEIVED (2:26)

## Gnosticism

*gnosis* ("knowledge")

Spiritual was good and physical was bad

- They believed Jesus was *not* really physical
- They believed you could do whatever you want in your flesh



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    3. So we may not SIN (2:1)
    4. So we may not be DECEIVED (2:26)
    5. So we may have ASSURANCE (5:13)

# True Christianity

(1 John 1:1-4)

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*"<sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life..."*

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- **John's Proclamation:** True Christianity is based on facts
- **John's Purpose:**

*"<sup>3</sup> ...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, SO THAT you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."*

- True Christianity brings us...
  - o FELLOWSHIP with God. (Vertically)

True Christianity is not about a religion,  
but a relationship with the living God.



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You were never meant to go at the Christian life by yourself.



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*"<sup>4</sup> And we are writing these things SO THAT our joy may be complete."*

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Joy is the mark of a Christian  
who has fellowship with God and God's people.