

First John

Introduction

Text: [John 1:1-4](#)

Introduction

In The Gospel of John, Jesus came not only to LIVE a life, but to GIVE life:

[John 10:10](#)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have LIFE, and that they may have it more ABUNDANTLY.

[John 20:30-31](#)

Truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are WRITTEN that you may BELIEVE that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that BELIEVING you may have LIFE in His name.

In 1 John, he described the nature of that life in greater detail

[1 John 3:14](#)

We know that we have passed from DEATH to LIFE, because we LOVE the brethren. He who does not LOVE his brother abides in DEATH.

1. The Author

1. John, the beloved disciple of Jesus
2. **Internal Evidence:** similarities between this epistle and the Gospel of John
3. **External Evidence** that this John is the author:
 - a. Polycarp, a close associate of John, appears to make reference to this epistle at the beginning of the second century, in a letter to the Philippians
 - b. Irenaeus, a student of Polycarp, quoted from it and attributed it to John

2. The Recipients

John may have been addressing a particular group of Christians possessing certain spiritual gifts

[1 John 2:20](#)

you have an ANOINTING from the Holy One, and you KNOW all things.

[1 John 2:27](#)

The ANOINTING which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone TEACH you; but as the same ANOINTING TEACHES you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

3. Date: anywhere from 60 A.D. to 100 A.D.

4. Gnostics

[1 John 2:26](#)

These things I have written to you concerning those who try to DECEIVE you.

1. Claimed to have a superior knowledge (Greek word for knowledge is "gnosis")
2. Believed all matter was evil
 - a. Therefore God did not create or have anything to do with the material universe
 - b. Therefore Christ could not have come in the flesh - [1 John 4:1-3](#)
 - c. This was taught in two ways:
 - 1) Some thought one should abstain from anything that would satisfy the flesh
 - 2) Others claimed it did not matter what one did in the flesh (it was evil anyway)

5. Purpose

Concerns The "Word Of Life"

[1 John 1:1](#)

THAT which was from the beginning, which we have HEARD, which we have SEEN with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have HANDLED, concerning the WORD of LIFE—

This is an obvious reference to Jesus emphasizing that He was "real, in the flesh"

Is this the beginning at Creation or the Gospel?

[John 1:1](#)

In the BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

[1 John 2:7](#)

Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the BEGINNING. The old commandment is the word which you HEARD from the BEGINNING.

To Declare The "Eternal Life"

[1 John 1:2](#)

the LIFE was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that ETERNAL LIFE which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

"THAT Eternal Life" is an obvious reference to Jesus Christ

[1 John 5:13](#)

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may KNOW that you have ETERNAL LIFE, and that you may CONTINUE to BELIEVE in the name of the Son of God.

John focused on the "eternal life" which Jesus offered and made possible by coming in the flesh
That You May Have "Fellowship" With Us (3)

[1 John 1:3](#)

that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

This message makes fellowship possible.

That Your "Joy" May Be Full

[1 John 1:4](#)

And these things we write to you that your JOY may be FULL.

That You May Not Sin

[1 John 2:1](#)

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not SIN.

Conclusion

1. The fullness of joy comes only when we are in fellowship with the Father and the Son
2. Only when we are in fellowship with the Father and the Son do we have "eternal life."
3. If you want that fellowship found in Christ, you must believe that He is the Christ and be baptized into His name.
4. If you have turned from Christ, we can pray for you and with you that your faith will be restored.