

# 1 JOHN

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

23

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

5

TYPE

EPISTLE, GENERAL



## OVERVIEW

Although not expressly stated, these three epistles are typically attributed to the Apostle John, who also penned the fourth Gospel. Similar in writing style and language, this epistle was written by John after he had completed his Gospel, as it assumes the reader has knowledge of its contents. Most likely written later in John's life, John emphasized the divinity of Jesus and His ministry in the flesh.



WRITTEN  
90-95 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED  
All Eras in the Age of  
Grace



AUTHOR  
Apostle John

| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LIGHTNESS,<br>DARKNESS, SIN,<br>FORGIVENESS                                                                                                                                                                       | STREAM OF<br>CONSCIOUSNESS<br>“LOVE”<br>THOUGHTS                                                                                                                                                                              | GREAT<br>SALVATION,<br>ADMONISHMENT<br>OF SIN                                                                                                                                                                         | ATTACKING<br>GNOSTIC BELIEF                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | MORE DEFINITION<br>OF CHRIST                                                                                                                       |
| 1 JOHN 1                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1 JOHN 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 1 JOHN 3                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1 JOHN 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 1 JOHN 5                                                                                                                                           |
| John emphasized that Jesus manifested Himself in the flesh. John also establishes himself as a first-hand witness to Christ. He encourages the people to walk in the light and ask for forgiveness when they sin. | John's thoughts flow evenly from one to another and he teaches about love: God's love for people, love for one another, and discouragement from loving the world. He expresses assurances of salvation and God's forgiveness. | John exhorts the people to be like Christ and purify themselves. He expresses the real existence of sin, and reiterates the importance of refraining from it. He teaches that Christ is the real source of salvation. | John teaches the people not to believe everything they hear, but to question and test what is spoken because of false prophets. He encourages confidence in God's ability to protect. John declares the importance of love, that it is the defining characteristic of a true believer. | John declares that keeping God's commands is an expression of love for Him. He declares that belief in Jesus Christ is necessary for eternal life. |

# 2 JOHN

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

24

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

1

TYPE

EPISTLE, GENERAL



## OVERVIEW

In this epistle, John wrote to an unnamed woman and her children. Some Bible scholars debate the likelihood of John addressing a woman, and therefore ascribe it as a letter to the church. John warned of false teachers who deny Christ and His doctrine.



**WRITTEN**  
90-95 AD



**TIME PERIOD COVERED**  
All Eras in the Age of  
Grace



**AUTHOR**  
John the Apostle

1

**HOLDING FAST**

**2 JOHN 1**

John reminds the reader that Jesus will return in the flesh, that anyone who claims otherwise should not be welcome among the believers. He encourages them to hold to the truth and to not let anyone undermine it.

# 3 JOHN

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

25

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

1

TYPE

EPISTLE, GENERAL



## OVERVIEW

Identifying himself as “The Elder,” John wrote a letter to Gaius, a faithful disciple of the church. John expressed gratitude to Gaius for his faithfulness, and reminded him to follow the truth and that which is right.



**WRITTEN**  
90-95 AD



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All Eras in the Age of  
Grace



**AUTHOR**  
John the Apostle

1

**DO NOT IMITATE EVIL,  
DO WHAT IS GOOD**

**3 JOHN 1**

John expresses joy in Gaius, for receiving messengers of the church and ministering to them and the church. In comparison, John expresses displeasure in Diotrephes, another church member who was refusing hospitality and exerting dominion over others.