

# 1 John

John wrote to clarify the differences between the genuine gospel as revealed by Jesus to the apostles and the heretical versions of the gospel (primarily Gnosticism) spreading in the early church. The guiding principles are 1) true believers will love holiness and 2) true believers will trust that Jesus is the Christ (and all that being the Christ implies).

Preface	Marks of Genuine Believers				Discerning Genuine Teachers from False			Conclusion
1:1-4	1:5-3:24				4:1-5:12			5:13-21
Apostles are the only reliable source of information about the way to gain eternal life because they were intimate eye-witnesses to the ministry of Jesus	Principle Stated	Principle Expanded	Exhortation to pursue righteousness	Rationale Behind principle	Exhortation to be discerning	What it means to know God and to be born of God	What it means to love God	Believers have confidence: 5:13-15 about receiving eternal life 5:16-19 about their sinfulness not jeopardizing their eternal life 5:20-21 about the truth of the message of Jesus and the apostles
	1:5-2:2	2:3-25	2:26-3:3	3:4-24	4:1-6	4:7-18	4:19-5:12	
	1:5 God is good, therefore true believers love holiness. Specifically, they:  1:6-7 will not pursue sin  1:8-9 will not deny their sinfulness  1:10 will not call wrong right  2:1-2 are forgiven	True believers will: 2:3-6 pursue holiness  2:7-11 love the things of God  2:12-17 not love the things of the world  2:18-25 confess that Jesus is the Christ	2:26-28 exhortation to remain faithful to the gospel  2:29-3:3 explanation of what "remaining faithful" looks like: pursuing holiness	True believers: 3:4-10 pursue holiness because they are born of God  3:11-18 love the people of God because they love God  3:19-24 can know they are children of God	4:1-3 True teachers believe Jesus is the Christ  4:4-5 False teachers find a hearing in this world  4:6 True teachers embrace apostolic teaching	4:7-11 To love with the type of self-sacrificing love exemplified by Jesus  4:12-18 To acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God	4:19-21 to love those who love God  5:1-5 those who love God are those who believe that Jesus is the Christ  5:6-12 the Jesus who was confirmed as the Christ at both his baptism and death on the cross	