

## 1, 2, 3 JOHN: MESSAGE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

**A. AUTHOR:** John

**B. BACKGROUND:** John wrote his letter to combat false teaching and reassure those who had put their trust in Christ.

**C. THEME:** False teachers may spread doctrine that appeals to the flesh, but they will face the judgment of God, as will all those who embrace their teaching.

**D. OUTLINE:**

1. Prologue: The Word of Life (1:1-4)
2. God Is Light (1:5-3:10)
  - a. Walk in the Light (1:5-2:2)
    - Light and Darkness
    - Confession of Sin
  - b. Obey the Command to Love (2:3-11)
    - Know God and Keep His Commands (3-6)
    - Learn the New Command & Love Others (7-11)
  - c. Know Your Spiritual Gift (2:12-14)
  - d. Be Warned of Enemies of the Faith (2:15-28)
    - The World (15-17)
    - The Antichrists (18-28)
  - e. Live Like Children of God (2:28-3:10)
    - Be Ready for His Return (2:28-3:3)
    - Be Righteous and Do Not Sin (3:4-10)

**3. God Is Love (3:11-5:12)**

- a. Love One Another (3:11-24)
- b. Test the Spirits (4:1-6)
- c. Love One Another Again (4:7-21)
- d. Obey God and Experience Victory (5:1-5)
- e. Believe in the Son and Enjoy Eternal Life (5:6-12)

**4. The Confidence and Characteristics of God's Child (5:13-21)**

**5. 2 John**

- a. Walking in the Truth and Love (1-6)
- b. Guarding the Truth about the Son (7-13)

**6. 3 John**

- a. Commendation of Gaius' Hospitality (1-8)
- b. Condemnation of Diotrephes' Behavior (9-10)
- c. Consistency of Demetrius' Testimony (11-14)

**E. REAL LIFE LESSONS FROM 1, 2, & 3 JOHN**

1. We should walk in the light and when we fall short, confess our sin.
2. Those who walk in the light also love God and others.
3. We should live with assurance of our own salvation.
4. We must walk in the truth and walk in love.
5. We should be generous toward others and treat them well.

