

OUTLINE OF FIRST JOHN

- I. Prologue–Jesus, the Word of Life is presented in total reality, as the basis of fellowship with God and other believers (1:1-4)

- II. An explanation of true fellowship (1:5–3:24)
 - A. Fellowship with God is a relationship (1:5:2:11)
 - 1. It is walking in accordance with God’s character (in the light not in darkness) (1:5-7)
 - 2. It is both experiencing forgiveness and resisting sin (1:8-2:2)
 - 3. It is an intimate knowing of God reflected in an obedience to God’s commands. (2:3-11)

 - B. Fellowship with God avoids the allure of the world and continues in the teaching of the Holy Spirit (2:12-27)
 - 1. It is based on acknowledging different levels of Spiritual maturity each with unique blessings (2:12-14)
 - 2. It resists the allure of the world (2:15-17)
 - 3. It is not turned by the “antichrists” and world’s deception (2:18-25)

4. It continues in the teaching of the Holy Spirit (2:26-27)

C. Fellowship with God gives confidence to live like God's children (2:28-3:10)

1. It gives us confidence to face Christ when he returns (2:28)

2. It empowers us to live in righteousness, fellowshiping with God and other believers (2:29-3:10)

D. Fellowship with God is evidenced by loving other believers (3:11-24)

1. This is not what love is (3:11-15)

2. Here's what love is (3:16-18)

3. This love gives us confidence before God (3:19-24)

III. Instructions for continued fellowship (4:1-5:12)

A. Beware of deceptive false prophets (4:1-6)

- B. Love for divine reasons (4:7-21)
 - 1. Love one another (4:7-12)
 - 2. Love comes from abiding in God through his Spirit, confessing his Son (4:13-16)
 - 3. In so doing we have confidence before God and consistency of testimony (4:17-21)

- C. Live obediently, overcome the world and maintain your testimony (5:1-12)
 - 1. Believe...love...obey...overcome (5:1-5)
 - 2. Don't compromise your testimony (5:6-12)

IV. Concluding encouragement and charges (5:13-21)

- A. You can have confidence in prayer (5:13-17)
- B. You can be assured of your unique position in Christ (5:18-28)
- C. Avoid idols—that really messes up your fellowship with God (5:21)