

1 John - Living in Love

1. 1 John differs in style from Paul's letters. Look at the beginning and end of 1 John and compare it with Philippians, for example. What's different? Is 1 John a letter? Or some other literary form?
2. 1 John does not possess a typical introduction or conclusion, but it does contain some interesting clues that it was written to address a specific circumstance where some group of people departed from the traditional teachings about Jesus Christ. Look at **1 John 20-26; 4:1-2**. What does the author stress as true beliefs? How does the author think you can identify true Christians from those who follow false beliefs?
3. 1 John tells us our true identity. According to **1 John 3:1**, who are we? Does this make a difference in how we see ourselves? How we see others?
4. According to **1 John 4:16b**, what is the main characteristic by which we can know God? When, then, should be the main characteristic by which others know that we know God?
5. A key verse, **1 John 3:18**, tells us it is important that our words match our actions. Read also **1 John 4:7**. What happens when, as Christians, our actions do not reflect our faith and beliefs?

6. Read **1 John 1:8-9**. When we sin, what should we do? What promise do we have from Jesus? Have you ever seen or heard these words before?

7. Read **1 John 3:16-18** and **1 John 4:19-21**. What commandment are we to follow? How do we know Jesus loves us?

8. So, how committed do you want to be to your Christian faith? How many things are *moiré* important to you than your love for *God*?

9. . . . than your love for others?