

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 Philipians, 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 which suggest that it was written to address a set of specific circumstances where some group of people departed from the traditional teachings about Jesus Christ. Look at **1 John 2:22-26 & 4:1-3**. 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 more important to you than your love for God?

9. . . . than your love for others?