



That they may know and share our joy.

1John 1:1-4

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### Author

- The writer didn't sign the letter.
- Only 2 NT epistles do not explicitly indicate authorship.
- 2John & 3John written by "The Elder"
- Gospel of John 13:23 - "the disciple whom Jesus loved"

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### Author: External Evidence

- Early church fathers attributed the book to John the writer of the Gospel.
  - Irenaeus (140-203AD)
  - Tertullian (155-222AD)
  - Origen (185-253AD)
- The early church did not suggest anyone else as the writer.

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### Author: Internal Evidence

- Style is similar to the Gospel
  - Contrasts with Light & Dark
  - 1John 1:1-4 is similar to John 1:1-18
- Author claims to be an eyewitness to Jesus
- Air of authority in his writing

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### Author: Other possibilities

- The Elder
  - 2&3John
  - Why didn't he introduce himself better?
- The unknown evangelist
  - Possibly a disciple of John?
  - Well-known church leader?
- Conclusive evidence to suggest that the Apostle John wrote the letter.

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### Date

- No internal evidence
- Several correlations and apparent references to Gospel of John
- Gospel most likely written before fall of Jerusalem and possible date in the 60s AD
- Majority of scholars date the letter in the 90s AD

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### Purpose: That they may know

- Appears to be written like a tract and prepared to be read during church services
- Critical of false teaching affecting the church
- Twofold purpose
  - 5:13 - assurance of eternal life
  - They will know we are Christians by our love!

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### Gnostics

- Humans are trapped in a material world created by an imperfect spirit.
- In order to free oneself from the inferior material world, one needs gnosis.
- Jesus was the embodiment of the supreme being to bring gnosis to earth.
- Matter is evil and God could not take on a material body.

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### Gnostics

- Docetism was being taught during the writing of 1John.
  - Jesus' physical body was an illusion, as was his crucifixion
  - Jesus only "seemed" to have a physical body and to physically die
  - In reality, He was pure spirit
  - Did not practice communion

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## Gnostics

- Dangers of Gnosticism
  - If the true self is found only in the soul, does it matter what we do with our body?
- Gnosticism today:
  - Kaballah
  - In the movies
    - The Truman Show
    - The Matrix



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## The Life Revealed: 1John 1:1

- Four relative pronouns
  - Which was from the beginning
  - Which we have heard
  - Which we have seen
  - Which we have touched

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## The Life Revealed: 1John 1:1

- Which was from the beginning
  - Similar to John 1:1 and Gen 1:1
  - The beginning of what?
- I'm telling you I was there and I was with him from the very beginning!

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### The Life Revealed: 1John 1:1

- What we have heard
- What we have seen with our eyes
  - Jesus was not merely spirit!
    - John 19:35
    - 2Peter 1:16
    - Acts 4:20
- What have you heard and seen with your own eyes?

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### The Life Revealed: 1John 1:1

- What we have looked at and touched with our hands
  - Don't call him casper!
    - Luke 24:39
    - John 20:27
- Why is it important for Jesus to be human?

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### The Life Revealed: 1John 1:1

- This we proclaim concerning the Word of Life
  - Logos - Source of fundamental order of the cosmos
  - Context, Context, Context
- 3 options
  - Word which is life
  - Life-giving Word
  - Word about life

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The Life Experienced:  
1John 1:2

- What was revealed?
- The emphasis is not the logos, but the life!
- What's the big deal about eternal life?
- Please give me some hope!

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The Life Shared: 1John 1:3

- Why are you proclaiming these things?
- We had fellowship in our community!
- Get off that land—and share yourself with brothers from another mother!
- Who are "we"?

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The Life Shared: 1John 1:3

- STEP
  - Sharing life together
  - Transforming into Christ's Likeness
  - Entrusted with time, talents & treasures
  - Participating in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission

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### The Life is Joy: 1John 1:4

- Who are "they"?
- Greek word "grapho"
  - Used 9 times
    - 1:4, 2:1,7,8,12,13,14,21,26 and 5:13
  - I write this so that you will believe!
- Are you experiencing joy?

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### Discussion

- Share your testimony
  - How was Jesus revealed to you?
  - How have you heard, seen and touched "the eternal life?"
  - What makes the Good News of Jesus real to you?

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### Discussion

- How are you sharing life together?
  - What will you do to have "fellowship with us?"
- How are you experiencing joy?
  - Is your joy complete?
  - What could make your joy complete?

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