

1 John – John’s Epistle --Overview

Sermon 1 in the 1 John Series

I. Introduction

- A. The main theme of this epistle is “The Character of God and how that applies to us in our Christian life.”
- B. Two words show up predominately LOVE and KNOW in various noun and verb forms.
- C. It’s a General Epistle. Most likely a circular letter to many congregations.
- D. The Author – the Apostle John
- E. The style is similar to what we find in the Gospel of John.
- F. John’s Reason for writing this Epistle – 1:4

II. Five Deadly Errors Addressed

1. Claiming to be a Christian while Living (walking) in Darkness -- 1:6

- a. And the positive truth is found in the next verse. 1:7

This theme continues in 2:4, 6, 9

- b. 2:4 – with verse 5.
- c. 2:6 – Christ as our example
- d. 2:9 – with verse 10

2. The teaching of “sinless perfection” is itself a Sin -- 1:8 With v. 9

Self deception – the worst kind of deception.
How could we be honest with ourselves and think we are perfect?

3. Wrong views on the person and work of Christ

a. 2:22-23

b. 4:1-3

Cults will have one of two errors.

1) Jesus Christ is not very God of very God.

2) But the error here in chapter 4 is the belief that Jesus Christ did not take upon himself true humanity.

5:6 – we will go into greater detail on this when we get there.

4. A hard heart that refuses to love our brothers and sisters

a. 2:11

b. 3:15

Strong language.

Remember to hate is as the sin of murder.

c. 4:8 with 4:20

5. Living a Life of continuous Sin

a. 3:6 – No Holy Spirit conviction?

Everyone has a conscience.

The exception is those who imbibe of such wicked philosophies and practices that they destroy their own conscience – become reprobate and believe lies – getting true morality backwards.

b. 3:8

c. 3:10

God is light – God is pure and shows us the way of truth.

God is love – and the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts.

God is life – we have life in Him – and that causes us to have fellowship with one another.

