



## Outline of 1 John by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### **1 John = Fellowship**

### **GOD IS PALPABLE BLUEPRINT FOR REDEMPTION**

#### **I. Fellowship in Light 1:1 – 2:27**

##### **A. Looking To The Son's Light 1:1-4**

1. God before the world **1:1a** Cf **Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:13-18**
2. God in the flesh **1:1b-3a**
  - a. Word of life the Apostles... **1:1b**
    - 1) "heard"
    - 2) "seen with our eyes"
    - 3) "looked upon"
    - 4) "our hands have handled"
  - b. Eternal Word of life "manifested" so that Apostles... **1:2-3a**
    - 1) "have seen"
    - 2) "bear witness"
    - 3) "declare unto you"
  - c. that believers might have fellowship with... **1:3b-4**
    - 1) "us" [the Apostles]
    - 2) The Father and His Son Jesus Christ
    - 3) the full joy of Scripture

##### **B. Walking In God's Light 1:5-2:2**

1. God is light without darkness **1:5**
2. Fellowship with The Father will not permit:
  - a. claiming fellowship and continuing to sin **1:6**
  - b. walking in light and refusing fellowship with cleansed sinners **1:7**
  - c. claiming that "we have no sin" **1:8**
  - d. confessing our sins without being forgiven **1:9**
  - e. claiming that "we have not sinned" **1:10**
  - f. claiming that Christians will not need Jesus again **2:1-2**

##### **C. Abiding In The New Light 2:3-17**

1. One knows God by keeping his commandments **2:3**
  - a. claiming to know God without obedience is a lie **2:4**
  - b. one can know he/she is "in Him" **2:5**
  - c. one's actions should be as loud as one's words **2:6**
  - d. this is "no new commandment" **2:7**
2. One knows God by loving the brethren **2:8-11**
  - a. "a new commandment" is... **2:8**
    - 1) written [by New Testament Apostles]

- 2) true "in Him and in you"
- 3) evidenced in Christian lives
- b. fellowship lines are drawn between:
  - 1) brethren-haters who are still in sin **2:9**
  - 2) brethren-lovers who have "no cause" to sin **2:10**
- c. God's truth about brethren-haters: **2:11**
  - 1) "is in darkness"
  - 2) "walks in darkness"
  - 3) "does not know where he is going"

#### **D. Keeping True Light 2:18-27**

- 1. Not "antichrist" which:
  - a. began in 1st century and with many, not just one **2:18**
  - b. formerly were Christians ("from us") but not faithful adherents to the doctrine of Christ ("they were not of us"). **2:19a Cf Galatians 1:6-12**
  - c. which cannot abide "sound doctrine" ("made manifest") **2:19b**
- 2. Holy Spirit leads to truth **2:20-27**

### **II. Fellowship In Right 2:28 – 3:9**

#### **A. Appearance Of Right 2:28-29**

- 1. "Appearance" is not deceiving **2:28** (Greek "manifest, visible") **1:2; 2:19; 1 John 3:5, 8; Romans 1:19; 2 Corinthians 5:10**).  
Christ's 2nd appearing is indicated **Cf Hebrews 9:27-28**.
- 2. Actions preparing for 2nd coming are straightforward **2:29**  
**Cf II Peter 3:10-13**

#### **B. Approval of Right 3:1-9**

- 1. World divided by God's Love into: **3:1 Cf John 13:34-35; 10:14-21; Matthew 10:34-49; Mark 16:15-16**
- 2. "Children of God" live as purely as possible **3:2-3, 6-7, 9**
- 3. Followers of the devil **3:4-5, 8**  
What is taught is the impropriety of a Christian's sin, NOT the impossibility of its ever happening!  
**Cf 5:18; 2:1-2**

### **III. Fellowship In Like 3:10 – 5:21**

#### **A. Application of Love 3:10 - 23**

- 1. World hates practitioners of righteousness **3:10-15**
  - a. who acts wrong and loves not his brother "is not of God" **3:10**
  - b. brotherly love required in 1st family **3:11-12 Cf Genesis 4:1-15**
  - c. expect worldly hatred **3:13 Cf John 15:17-25**
  - d. brotherly love manifests true belief from sinful Christians **3:14-15**
- 2. Christian brethren show God's love by their willingness: **3:16-23**
  - a. to die for the brethren like Christ **3:16 Cf Matthew 5:10-12**
  - b. to live for needy brethren **3:17-18 Cf Matthew 5:7, 43-48**
  - c. to be relieved of our guilty conscience **3:19-23**

#### **B. Appreciation Of Love 3:24-5:3**

- 1. Of whose "spirit" do we share? **3:24-4:6**
  - a. God abides in followers of His Spirit **3:24**

- b. not "every spirit" is "of God" **4:1-6**
- 2. Of what "spirit" is love? **4:7-5:5**
  - a. God's **4:7-8** **Cf John 4:24**
  - b. Christ's **4:9-16**
    - 1) God's love manifested:
      - a) in Christ's death for others **4:9**
      - b) before we love Him **4:10**
    - 2) God is the pattern for Christian brotherly love **4:11**
  - c. Holy Spirit's **4:12-16**
    - 1) unseen God revealed Himself in Bible **4:12-14**  
**Cf I Corinthians 2:7-13; Colossians 1:26**
    - 2) love hinges on truth and love **4:15-16**
  - d. Church's **4:17-5:3**
    - 1) godliness/godly living defined **4:17** **Cf Titus 2:11-14**
    - 2) loving is the "no fear" way of life **4:18**
    - 3) one cannot say, "You go first" because He has! **4:19**
    - 4) loving unseen God requires loving seen brethren **4:20-21**
    - 5) obeying unseen Christ requires brotherly love **5:1-3**

### **C. Appeasement Of Love 5:4-21**

- 1. Faith is the victory for those who believe in: **5:4-5**
  - a. Dual bodily witnesses of Jesus' death **5:6a** **Cf John 19:33-37**
  - b. Triple heavenly witnesses of Jesus' love **5:7** **Cf Matthew 28:18-20**
  - c. Triple recognition needed to be saved **5:8** **Cf 2 Corinthians 13:14;**  
**Romans 5:5-11; Acts 2:38-41; I Corinthians 12:13**
  - d. The "witness of God" is greater than "the witness of men" **5:9**
    - 1) reject God's witness and it makes God "a liar" **5:10**
    - 2) refuse "His Son" and refuse "eternal life" **5:11-12**
    - 3) believe in "the name of the Son of God" and "know" **5:13**
- 2. Faith is the vigor for:
  - a. prayer for encumbrances **5:14-17**
  - b. power for enabling **5:18-19**
  - c. presence for ennobling **5:20**
  - d. principle for encroachments **5:21**

### **Polk's Private Addenda:**

Adam Clarke on **I John 2:18**:

"Any person, thing, doctrine, system of religion, polity, &c., which is opposed to Christ, and to the spirit and spread of his Gospel, is antichrist. We need not look for this imaginary being in any of the above exclusively. Even Protestantism may have its antichrist as well as Popery. Every man who opposes the spirit of the Gospel, and every teacher and writer who endeavours to lower the Gospel standard to the spirit and taste of the world, is a genuine antichrist, no matter where or among whom he is found. The heresies which sprang up in the days of St. John were the antichrist of that time. As there has been a succession of oppositions to Christianity in its spirit and spread through every age since its promulgation in the world, so there has been a succession of antichrists. We may bring this matter much lower; every enemy of Christ, every one who opposes his reign in the world, in others, or in himself, is an antichrist; and consequently every wicked man is an antichrist. But the name has been generally applied to whatever person or thing systematically opposes Christ and his religion."

## John's Joinings:

- Since James and John were fishing partners with Simon (**Luke 5:10**), and since Bethsaida was "the city of Andrew and Peter" (**John 1:44**), John was probably also from Bethsaida, a city denounced by Jesus for its lack of repentance (**Matthew 11:20-22**), though its surrounding area was excited by His miracles there (**Mark 6:45-56**).
- John was one of the "Sons of Thunder" (**Mark 3:17**); quick to call fiery destruction on a village who did not receive Jesus (**Luke 9:52-56**); and with Peter boldly preached the Gospel (**Acts 4:18-20**). It is little wonder, then, that his **I John** is written with the same boldness, conciseness, and confidence in its truth as was his **Gospel**. **The entirety of the epistle is to certify a Christian's:**
  - (1) **Greek "to see, perceive" hence, objective** or external evidence (Cf **I John 3:1; 4:16; & 3:2; 5:20**); **and,**
  - (2) **Greek "learn to know, become acquainted with" hence, subjective** or internal conviction of the mind (Cf **I John 4:2, 6; 2:29; & 2:3-14; 3:1, 6; 1 John 4:6, 8, 16; 5:20**).
- It helps to understand the book by **John's omissions:**
  - (1) **John says nothing of Jews** except in the opening to say he was one of the physical witnesses of the Father's Son, "Jesus Christ" (**I John 1:1-3**).
  - (2) **John says nothing of pagans** except in the very last verse to "keep yourselves from idols" (**I John 5:21**).
  - (3) **Everything John says about the Christian's life and salvation is patterned around the absolute truth of Jesus Christ's earthly life!**  
Cf **1:2-3, 7; 2:1-2, 24-25; 5:6-13**
- **John says one may definitely know that God Is: "light" 1:5; "righteous" 2:29; 3:7, 10; "pure" 3:3; "greater than our heart" 3:20; "love" 4:8, 16; "greater than" the witness of man 5:9.**
- **I John 1:5-2:2** outlines human religions' error on the subject of sin:
  - (1) People deny the existence of total moral goodness Cf **1:5**
  - (2) People claim fellowship with God but continue in their sins Cf **1:6**
  - (3) People claim to live right but reject cleansed sinners Cf **1:7**
  - (4) People claim self-righteousness Cf **1:8**
  - (5) People claim permanent guilt with no forgiveness Cf **1:9**
  - (6) People claim there is no need for religion Cf **1:10**
  - (7) People claim once they're saved, they're always saved Cf **2:1-2****Sin is real violation of God's Law that must be forgiven by God through Jesus Christ. And even Christians can sin and must be forgiven by God.**
- "Antichrist" is a term found only in **I & II John**:
  - (1) **I John 2:18 - tells**  
= **when** ("the last hour") NOT "the last day" which, in John, is clearly identified with the general resurrection of all dead (**6:39-40, 44, 54; 1 John 11:24; 12:48**) Cf **I Corinthians 15:20-28, 50-57**. If "the last days" were down to "the last hour" then these letters were written shortly before AD 70. **When the expression "the last days" occurs**, it connotes the end of God's covenant with physical Israel (culminating in Jerusalem's destruction, AD 70) in which:

- (a) *the Holy Spirit baptism took place (Acts 2:1-4, 14-22; Cf Joel 2:28-32);*
- (b) *sin abounds (2 Timothy 3:1-5);*
- (c) *Jesus is the final Prophet of God (Hebrews 1:1-3);*
- (d) *Jewish trust in wealth corrupts their moral character to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (James 5:1-6);*
- (e) *scoffers who deny the miraculous speak (2 Peter 3:1-6).*
- (f) **If these were not true in the 1st century, then Scripture is NOT to be believed that "Jesus is the Christ!"**  
= **and the number (plural)** shows it's a doctrine, not an individual!

- (2) **I John 2:22** - identifies "antichrist" doctrine as:  
= **the same as "a liar"** Cf **John 8:44-45**, and;  
= **any doctrine rendering null and void "the Father and the Son" relationship within the godhead.** Cf all "oneness" people are "antichrist," e.g. Jews, Muslims, United Pentecostal, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists, agnostics, and all idolaters.

- (3) **I John 4:3** - states that it is NOT one person who believes this, but the "spirit" of false prophets which was "*now already in the world.*"  
**Cf I John 4:1-4 THEREFORE THERE COULD BE NO WAITING UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD FOR ANTICHRIST TO APPEAR!!!** All who teach that otherwise deny the Word of God!

- (4) **II John 7** - again stresses **with plurality** it is NOT just one person, AND **with present tense** that it began occurring in John's day!

- **THOSE WHO TEACH THAT:**

- (1) **THE JEWS ARE GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE OVER WHOM JESUS WILL REIGN ON EARTH SOME DAY, AND;**
  - (2) **THEREFORE HIS EARTHLY MISSION TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM AND BRING IN GENTILES FAILED, AND;**
  - (3) **SOME INDIVIDUAL MUST YET ARISE TO SPEARHEAD THE OPPOSITION TO CHRIST;**
- ARE ANTICHRIST BY DENYING THAT HE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT THE SCRIPTURES (OLD & NEW) CLAIM HE DID!!**