

JOHN'S FIRST LETTER - Introduction
"Truth and Love"
Reference: **I John**
Pastor Larry Webb

BOOK: An epistle is a message or letter and there are three epistles named after the human author **John: I John, II John** and **III John**. **I John** consist of ___ chapters, _____ verses and _____ words contingent on the particular translation that is used.

AUTHOR:

I John and **Hebrews** are the only New Testament epistles where the author isn't identified. Although **John** does not name himself in this book, the consensus is that **John** was its human author.

John authored ___ New Testament books: **John's gospel, I John, II John, III John** and then the prophetic book **Revelation**.

John's parents were **Zebedee** and **Salome**.

John and his older brother **James** were part of the original twelve disciples.

The actual name John means "God is _____."

TIME and **LOCATION:** The best guess is that this letter was written from _____ in ancient Asia Minor (modern western Turkey) between ____ - ____ **AD**.

This lesson is focused on the man God used to record His words to this book: John the apostle.

References: **Matthew 26:19-22; John 13:23-24; Luke 9:54** (see screen)

There are two fundamental elements God wants His church to emphasize: _____ and _____.

John was committed to truth and seemed to go to great lengths to be certain he wasn't misunderstood.

Reference: **II Timothy 4:3-4** (see screen)

The phrase "modern era" describes time after the Middle Ages. The "modern age" lasted from the Middle Ages through the first half of the last century (i.e. 20th century.)

Modernity (modern thought) argued that absolute truth _____ exist and that through scientific means man can determine that truth.

But the modern age (modernity) has ended and this is now a post-modern age.

Postmodernism argues that absolute and objective truth _____ exist.

BUT, as evangelicals, we believe that absolute and objective truth does exist and the reason it exists is because _____.

Reference: **Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16; John 14:6; John 18:37** etc. (see screen)

Definition: Absolute and objective truth is that which is consistent with God's _____ and _____.

John was also committed to love and John's theological position on love can be summarized in ten different statements He made:

- God is _____ (**John 5:42; 15:10, I John 4:8**).
- God loved His Son, **Jesus** (**John 10:17; 15:9; 17:23-24, 26**).
- God loved Jesus' **disciples** (**John 16:27; 17:23**).
- God loves _____ (**John 3:16**).
- God is loved by His Son, **Jesus** (**John 14:31**).
- God's Son, Jesus loved His **disciples** (**John 13:1-34; 14:21; 15:9-10**).
- God's Son, Jesus loves _____ (**John 11:5, 36; 13:23**).
- God's Son, Jesus expects all men to love **Him** (**John 8:42; 14:23**).
- God's Son, Jesus taught that we should love **one another** (**John 13:34-35; 15:12-13**).
- God's Son, Jesus emphasized that love is the fulfilling of the _____ (**John 15:10; I John 3:23-24**).

Consider these statistics to illustrate the balance John evolved into. In all his writings John made _____ **references** to truth and _____ **references** to love. That's almost a perfect balance.

One reason a balance between truth and love is so critical is because post-moderns don't understand that authentic love cannot be love apart from truth.

Reference: **I Corinthians 13:6b**, "(love) *rejoices in the truth*"

Love cannot be authentic love if that love is missing truth.

Principle: _____ love loves _____!

Reference: **Psalm 97:10**