

Outline of the Book of 1 John

The book of 1 John, written by the Apostle John, emphasizes the themes of love, light, and truth. It addresses the dangers of false teachings, the importance of living righteously, and the assurance of eternal life in Christ. Below is an exhaustive outline of 1 John, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

I. Introduction (1:1-4)

- A. The Word of Life (1:1-4)
 - 1. The eternal Word, which was from the beginning (1:1)
 - 2. The life was manifested and testified (1:2)
 - 3. Proclamation of fellowship with the Father and the Son (1:3)
 - 4. Purpose: to complete joy (1:4)

II. Walking in the Light (1:5-2:2)

- A. God Is Light (1:5)
 - 1. God is light; in Him, there is no darkness at all (1:5)
- B. Fellowship with God (1:6-7)
 - 1. Walking in darkness vs. walking in the light (1:6-7)
- C. Confession of Sin (1:8-10)
 - 1. Acknowledging vs. denying sin (1:8-10)
- D. Jesus Christ, the Righteous Advocate (2:1-2)
 - 1. Jesus as the advocate and propitiation for our sins (2:1-2)

III. Obedience and Love (2:3-17)

- A. Knowing God and Keeping His Commandments (2:3-6)
 - 1. Knowing God through obedience (2:3-5a)
 - 2. Walking as Jesus walked (2:5b-6)
- B. The New Commandment (2:7-11)
 - 1. The commandment to love one another (2:7-8)
 - 2. Light and darkness in relation to love (2:9-11)
- C. Encouragement to Different Groups (2:12-14)
 - 1. Addressing children, fathers, and young men (2:12-14)
- D. Warning Against Worldliness (2:15-17)
 - 1. Do not love the world or anything in the world (2:15)
 - 2. The world and its desires are passing away (2:16-17)

IV. Warning Against Antichrists (2:18-27)

- A. The Last Hour and the Antichrists (2:18-19)
 - 1. Many antichrists have come (2:18)
 - 2. They went out from us, showing they were not of us (2:19)
- B. Anointing from the Holy One (2:20-23)

1. Believers have knowledge from the Holy One (2:20)
 2. Denying the Son and the Father (2:21-23)
- C. Remaining in the Truth (2:24-27)
1. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you (2:24-25)
 2. The anointing teaches you about all things (2:26-27)

V. Children of God and Righteous Living (2:28-3:24)

- A. Confidence at His Coming (2:28-29)
1. Continue in Him, so that we may be confident at His coming (2:28)
 2. Everyone who does what is right has been born of Him (2:29)
- B. The Love of the Father (3:1-3)
1. The great love the Father has lavished on us (3:1)
 2. We are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been made known (3:2)
 3. Purify ourselves, just as He is pure (3:3)
- C. Sin and the Children of God (3:4-10)
1. The practice of sin is lawlessness (3:4)
 2. Jesus appeared to take away sins (3:5)
 3. No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning (3:6-7)
 4. The devil has been sinning from the beginning (3:8)
 5. Children of God vs. children of the devil (3:9-10)
- D. Love One Another (3:11-24)
1. The message from the beginning: love one another (3:11)
 2. Cain's example of hate (3:12-15)
 3. Jesus' example of love (3:16)
 4. Love in action and truth (3:17-18)
 5. Assurance in the presence of God (3:19-24)

VI. Testing the Spirits (4:1-6)

- A. Test the Spirits (4:1)
1. Do not believe every spirit but test the spirits (4:1)
- B. Recognizing the Spirit of God (4:2-3)
1. Every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God (4:2)
 2. The spirit of antichrist (4:3)
- C. Overcoming the World (4:4-6)
1. The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world (4:4)
 2. The world listens to them, but we are from God (4:5-6)

VII. God's Love and Ours (4:7-21)

- A. God is Love (4:7-12)
1. Love comes from God; everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God (4:7-8)
 2. God's love revealed in sending His Son (4:9-10)
 3. If God so loved us, we ought to love one another (4:11-12)
- B. Living in God (4:13-16)

1. God has given us His Spirit (4:13)
 2. We testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world (4:14-15)
 3. God is love; whoever lives in love lives in God (4:16)
- C. Perfect Love (4:17-21)
1. Confidence on the day of judgment (4:17)
 2. Perfect love drives out fear (4:18)
 3. We love because He first loved us (4:19)
 4. Loving God and hating a brother or sister (4:20-21)

VIII. Faith in the Son of God (5:1-12)

- A. Overcoming the World (5:1-5)
1. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God (5:1)
 2. Love for God and obedience to His commands (5:2-3)
 3. Faith that overcomes the world (5:4-5)
- B. Testimony Concerning the Son of God (5:6-12)
1. Jesus came by water and blood (5:6-8)
 2. God's testimony about His Son (5:9-10)
 3. Eternal life in His Son (5:11-12)

IX. Concluding Affirmations (5:13-21)

- A. Assurance of Eternal Life (5:13)
1. Purpose: that you may know you have eternal life (5:13)
- B. Confidence in Prayer (5:14-15)
1. Confidence that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us (5:14-15)
- C. Sin That Leads to Death (5:16-17)
1. Praying for a brother or sister who commits a sin not leading to death (5:16-17)
- D. Protection from the Evil One (5:18-20)
1. Born of God and kept safe from the evil one (5:18)
 2. The whole world is under the control of the evil one (5:19)
 3. The Son of God has come and given us understanding (5:20)
- E. Final Exhortation (5:21)
1. Keep yourselves from idols (5:21)

Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in 1 John

1. Walking in Darkness (1:6):

- **Danger:** Claiming fellowship with God while walking in darkness.
- **Application:** Walk in the light as God is in the light, leading to fellowship and cleansing from sin.

2. Denying Sin (1:8-10):

- **Danger:** Claiming to be without sin, which deceives oneself and makes God a liar.
- **Application:** Confess sins, trusting in God's faithfulness and justice to forgive and purify.

3. Disobedience to God's Commands (2:3-6):

- **Danger:** Claiming to know God but not keeping His commands.
- **Application:** Obey God's commands as evidence of knowing Him and living in His truth.

4. Loving the World (2:15-17):

- **Danger:** Loving the world and its desires, which leads to passing away with it.
- **Application:** Love God and do His will, which leads to eternal life.

5. Deception by Antichrists (2:18-27):

- **Danger:** Being led astray by antichrists who deny Jesus as the Christ.
- **Application:** Abide in the truth received from the beginning and rely on the anointing from the Holy One.

6. Practicing Sin (3:4-10):

- **Danger:** Continuing in sin, which is incompatible with being born of God.
- **Application:** Live righteously as children of God, rejecting sin and reflecting God's nature.

7. Hatred of Fellow Believers (3:11-15; 4:20-21):

- **Danger:** Hating fellow believers, which is equated with murder and shows absence of eternal life.
- **Application:** Love one another, following Christ's example and commandment.

8. Failure to Love in Action (3:16-18):

- **Danger:** Loving in words only, without actions or truth.
- **Application:** Show love through practical actions and sacrifices, helping those in need.

9. False Prophets and Spirits (4:1-6):

- **Danger:** Believing every spirit without testing them, leading to deception.
- **Application:** Test the spirits to discern whether they are from God, recognizing those that confess Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.

10. Fear and Lack of Assurance (4:17-18):

- **Danger:** Living in fear, especially concerning judgment.
- **Application:** Embrace God's perfect love, which drives out fear, and live confidently in God's love.

11. Lack of Faith in Jesus as the Son of God (5:1-12):

- **Danger:** Not believing in Jesus as the Son of God, missing out on eternal life.
- **Application:** Believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to overcome the world and receive eternal life.

12. Idolatry (5:21):

- **Danger:** Being led astray by idols, diverting worship from the true God.

➤ **Application:** Keep away from idols, remaining faithful to God alone.

Well-known Passages from 1 John

[1 John 1:5-10 ESV] This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

[1 John 2:15-17 ESV] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

[1 John 3:11, 13-18 ESV] For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another... Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

[1 John 4:7-15 ESV] Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

[1 John 5:13-15 ESV] I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Conclusion for 1 John

By understanding these dangers and applying John's exhortations, believers can live in the light of God's truth, love one another genuinely, and remain steadfast in their faith, ensuring a strong and vibrant relationship with God.