

Introduction.

A. Purpose.

1. To reassure confused believers.
2. To argue against Gnosticism.

B. Review.

1. Introduces the Word of Life as a historical figure.
2. Responds to various denials concerning sin made by Gnostics.

I. To know we are in fellowship with the Father (3-11).

A. Obey God's commands (3-6).

1. The false claim: we can know God without obeying him.
 - a. "Know" 40 times in 1 John; 8 times in this section.
 - b. Means dynamic fellowship.
2. John's accusation: liar.
3. The answer: obeying God's commands brings love to completion.
4. Summary: we must live as Jesus lived.

B. Love one another (7-11).

1. An old command -- the essence of the Gospel.
2. Yet, a new command (Jn. 13:34).
 - a. Exemplified in Christ and seen in us.
 - b. Because of it, evil is in retreat.
3. The one who hates.
 - a. Shows his claim to know God is a lie.
 - b. His character is darkness.
 - c. His behavior is wicked.
 - d. In his goals, he is disoriented.
4. The one who loves.
 - a. Proves his profession of faith.
 - b. His character is light.
 - c. Will not stumble (*skandolon*).

II. Pause for reassurance (12-14).

A. Style.

1. Balanced symmetrical phrases.
2. Tenses.
 - a. First three -- present tense.
 - b. Second three -- past tense.
 - c. Second clause of each -- perfect tense (present results of a past act).

B. The message.

1. To the children.
 - a. Sins forgiven.
 - b. Know the Father.
2. To the fathers -- they know Christ.
3. To the young men.
 - a. Victory over Satan.
 - b. Spiritually strong.
 - c. The Word is their strength.

III. Warning for separation from the world (15-17).

A. Love of the world incompatible with love for God.

1. "World" is the realm of being that excludes God.
2. Love of the world excludes God.
3. Characteristics of the world.
 - a. Cravings of the flesh (pleasing oneself: the inward selfish origin of sin; cf. Ge. 3:6 and Lk. 4:3).
 - b. Cravings of the eyes (power; the external origin of sin; cf. Ge. 3:6 and Lk. 4:5-7).
 - c. Arrogance of life (assertion of self-interest; cf. Ge. 3:6 and Lk. 4:9-11).

B. The things of the world are temporary.

C. The things of God are eternal.

IV. Warning about the Anti-christ (18-27).

- A. The reality of the Anti-christ.
 - 1. Taught along with the gospel (cf. 2 Th. 2:5).
 - 2. Marks the end of the age.
- B. Many precede him in spirit.
 - 1. Once part of the church, but not one with the church.
 - 2. Left the church (cf. 4:1).
- C. Believer is protected by the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. An anointing (Christ = the anointed one).
 - 2. Knowledge of the truth -- for all, not the elite.
- D. The lie of the Anti-christ (cf. Jn. 8:44).
 - 1. Denies that Jesus is the Christ.
 - 2. Denying Jesus denies the Father.
 - a. The Father and the Son are one (Jn. 10:30).
 - b. The Father sent the Son (Jn. 17:3).
 - c. Only way to the Father is through the Son (Jn. 14:6).
- E. The contrast of the believer.
 - 1. Whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father.
 - 2. Clings to the original truths.
 - 3. Comfort and warning,
 - 4. Stand fast.