

Summary of I John

John is writing because God has acted in human history; because he, along with the other Apostles, was an eyewitness to God's Action. Thus he is bearing witness to what he has seen and heard. His testimony can be summarized as follows:

- God is love, and he has demonstrated his love for humanity by sending his Son to be their Savior.
- The Son, who was both fully God and completely human, God incarnate, the light of the world, lived among us and taught us the ways of God, then he gave his life as a sacrifice for our sins. He defeated death by his resurrection procuring for humanity the gift of eternal life.
- God now freely bestows his gift of eternal life upon those who believe in the Son.
- Eternal life is both a present reality and a future hope. As a future hope it takes away our fear of death and gives us confidence as we face our ultimate destiny. As a present reality it transforms us. It demonstrates itself in this transformation.

- Those who share in eternal life are living in fellowship with God, with Christ and with one another. They are walking in the light. This is the first half of the book. They are also walking as God's Children. This is the message of the second half of the book.
- Those who walk in the light, and walk as God's children, i.e. those who have been "born of God"; those who possess eternal life demonstrate that life in five specific ways.
 - They are renouncing sin
 - They are listening to and obeying the commands of Jesus Christ
 - They are renouncing the world, the domain of sin, chaos, and death
 - They are practicing love
 - They are maintaining active faith in Jesus Christ

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