

Outline of First John

- I. Prologue (1:1-4)
 - A. Revelation of the Eternal Life – Apostolic Witnesses (1:1-2)
 - B. Purpose: Proclamations to Assure Mutual Fellowship (1:3-4)
- II. First Proclamation: God is Light (1:5-2:28)
Fellowship Depends on Walking in the Light
 - A. Theme Statement for God is Light (1:5)
 - B. Walking in the Darkness vs. Walking in the Light (1:6-2:11)
 - 1. Where we Walk Affects Fellowship (Opening Inclusio Statement) (1:6-7)
 - 2. Walking in the Light and Dealing with Sin (Confession) (1:8-2:2)
 - 3. Walking in the Light and Keeping God's Commandments (Knowing God) (2:3-8)
 - 4. Where we Walk Affects Love (Closing Inclusio Statement) (2:9-11)
 - C. Assurance to the Readers that they are Walking in the Light (2:12-14)
 - D. Warning: Walking in the Light is Not Compatible with Love for the World (2:15-17)
 - E. Warning: Walking in the Light is Not Compatible with Denying the Son (2:18-28)
 - 1. The Antichrists Deny the Truth (2:18-23)
 - 2. The True Believers Abide in the Truth (2:24-28)
- III. Second Proclamation: God is Righteous (2:29-4:6)
Fellowship Depends on Practicing Righteousness
 - A. Theme Statement for God is Righteous (2:29)
 - B. Practicing Righteousness or Sin is a Result of Paternity (3:1-10)
 - 1. God's Children Purify Themselves (3:1-3)
 - 2. The Devil's Offspring Practice Sin (3:4-8)
 - 3. How to Identify God's Children and the Devil's Children (3:9-10)
 - C. Righteousness is Expressed in Loving Others (3:11-18)
 - 1. Theme statement (3:11)
 - 2. What Love is Not: Negative Example of Cain (3:12-15)

- 3. What Love is: Positive Example of Christ (3:16-18)
 - D. Practicing Righteousness Provides Assurance of Fellowship (3:19-24)
 - E. Testing the Spirits of Truth and Falsehood (4:1-6)
- IV. Third Proclamation: God is Love (4:7-5:4)
Fellowship Depends on Expressing Mature Love
 - A. Theme Statement for God is Love (4:7-8)
 - B. God's Love Was Revealed in Jesus Christ and is Expressed Through Us (4:9-12)
 - C. The Presence of Mature Love Provides Assurance of Fellowship (4:13-18)
 - D. Mature Love is Expressed through Love for One Another (4:19-5:4)
- V. Epilogue (5:5-17)
 - A. Revelation of the Eternal Life – Divine Witness (5:5-13)
 - B. Fellowship Maintained by Praying for Fellow Believers (5:14-17)
- VI. Proclamation Summaries (5:18-21)