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## Introductory matters

- This letter was written by John the son of Zebedee and the disciple of Jesus.
- This letter was written to churches across the western coast of Asia Minor, the primary one being in Ephesus.

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## Introductory matters

- The letter deals with what Christians believe and how Christians act based on that belief.

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## The three credentials

- Theological: Whether one believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who actually came to earth in the flesh; that he is God incarnate. (1Jn. 4:2)

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## The three credentials

- Moral: Whether we are obeying the teachings and commands of the one we call Lord. (1Jn. 2:4-6)

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### The three credentials

- Relational: Whether or not we love one another based on God's love for us. (1Jn. 4:8-11)

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### What this message is about:

John boldly and clearly claims that, in Jesus, the eternal God came to earth in a very physical way that John and the other disciples witnessed. This event makes eternal life possible.

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### Purpose of this message

To highlight John's theological essential of our faith and the evidence for it. Then to call for belief that results in action.

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### 1. The incarnation is a verifiable fact.

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### 1John 1:1-3a

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life

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### 1John 1:1-3a

**<sup>2</sup>The life was made manifest and we have seen it and testify to it**

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**1John 1:1-3a**

**<sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard**

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**2. The message of Christ is a proclamation of life.**

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**1John 1:2**

**<sup>2</sup>The life was made manifest and we have seen it and testify to it *and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us***

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**4. The intent of the letter is to nurture fellowship and joy.**

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**1John 1:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup> *that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.***

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**1John 1:3-4**

**<sup>4</sup> *And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.***

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### **Next Step**

Believe that Jesus was God in the flesh. Then prove your belief by living a life in obedience to him, and in harmony, love and joy with him and his people.