A stylized teal feather graphic is centered on a dark teal background. The feather is oriented vertically, with its base at the bottom and its tip at the top. The text "1 JOHN" is overlaid on the middle of the feather in a light orange, serif font. The "1" is positioned to the left of the "J", and the "O", "H", and "N" are spaced out to the right. The feather has a long, thin shaft at the bottom and a series of curved, overlapping barbs at the top.

1 JOHN

## 1. Believers are the audience

This is a letter about discipleship / maturity / sanctification, not salvation

## 2. Abiding is the requirement

Those abiding in Christ (“walking in the Spirit”) will experience what John teaches here

- One major purpose of this letter was so readers would know that they have eternal life (1 John 5:13)
- John 17:3 defines eternal life as knowing God and especially Jesus
- How can we be assured that we are on the Path?  
When we are actively obeying him, living in active obedience to what he has told us to do

- *Knowing* God → *loving* God → *obeying* God
- The better we know him, the more we want to love and obey him (John 14:15)
- Second “by this we know” – that we are in him
  - “in him” refers to temporal fellowship;
  - “in Christ” in Paul is our eternal state

- Notice how he repeatedly sets our claims against reality as evidenced by our lives – “walk the talk”
- *menō* - “reside, abide, remain, stay”; it means to “live, dwell” not “exist”
  - abiding is a discipleship/sanctification term, not a salvation term
  - esp in 1 John, abiding is about closeness, persisting in close fellowship with God

# 1 John 2:7-8

I JOHN

- So was it an “old” or “new” commandment? Yes!
- Old – “love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev 19:18)  
No murder, theft, adultery, etc. “Golden Rule”
- New – love as God has loved you; reflect God’s love as seen in Jesus (John 13:34)

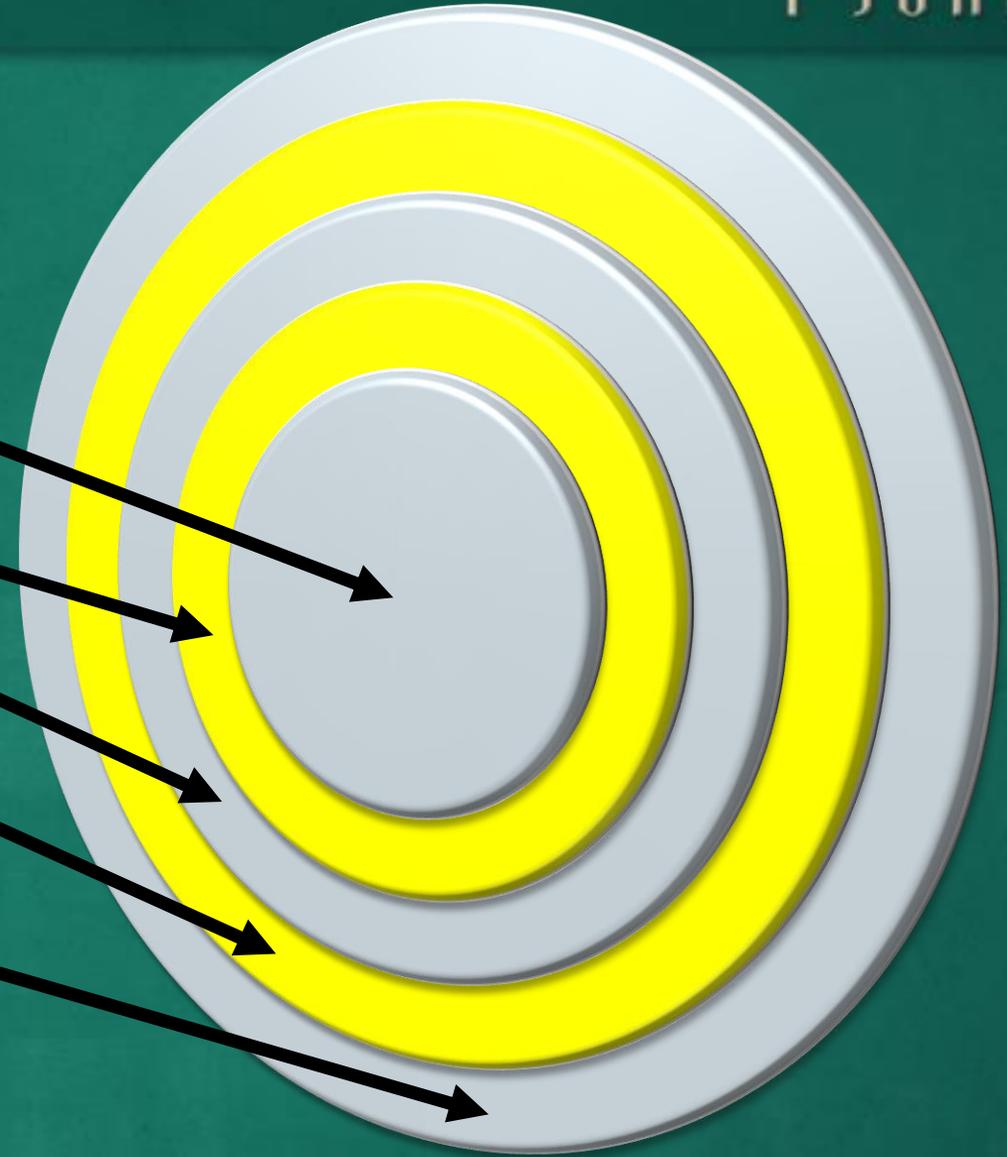
- In Jewish thought, to “love” meant to “choose” and “hate” meant “reject”

Choosing to respect and build up each other rather than choosing things that would tear them down

- The focus is on “brother” = fellow believer

You can't walk in the light and reject other believers

1. Spouse
2. Children
3. Local church
4. Global church
5. Unsaved world



# 1 John 2:10

I JOHN

- *skandalon* - something offensive; something that causes someone to stumble, fall, or sin
- When we are in the light, we won't place things for people to trip over and we won't allow ourselves to be something they can trip over

1 Corinthians 8; Romans 14

- Living in darkness actually blinds us:
  - to our own spiritual state (false claims, lying to ourselves; lack of true fellowship)
  - to each other's needs
- We can end up doing more harm than good for other Christians' spiritual lives

1. Does my “walk” match my “talk”?
2. Is my life helping other Christians or potentially hurting them, causing them to fall down on the Path?

Copyright © 2021, Daniel F. Goepfrich. All rights reserved. [theologyisforeveryone.com](http://theologyisforeveryone.com)

This document may be used and shared without any modifications.