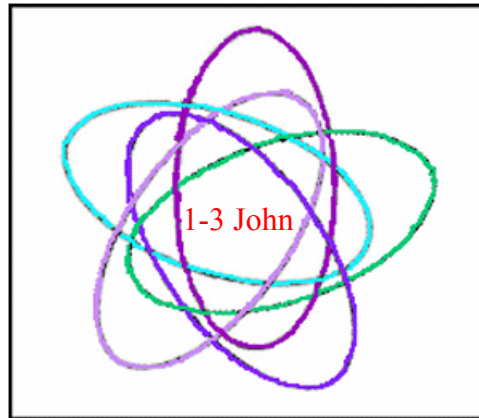


## When, to Whom, and Why did John Write this Epistle?

### Hearing God : Why are We Studying the Letters (Epistles) of John?

- **How do we know when and what God is speaking?**
  1. Agreement with Scripture – 1-3 John IS Scripture!
  2. Prayer – The question (what to study) was prayed over by many throughout the summer.
  3. Waiting (Has it stood the test of time?) – Answers / suggestions came in over a one month period.
  4. Confirmation by other Christians – There was a nexus between thoughts of 5 of 7 people discerning:



(1 of 7 shared no thoughts, and 1 of 7 shared something I believe was meant for “another Venn diagram”)

5. Examination of the Consequences or Impact – John’s epistles dovetail nicely with John’s Gospel, and their focus, in particular 1 John, has significant import for daily Christian living.
6. Inner Witness of the Spirit (His Peace) – It simply seemed right to the Elders & the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:28).

### 1 John : Introduction

- **Who wrote it?**
  - The apostle John
    - The claim is based on the writings of early church patriarchs, such as Ignatius
    - For an overview of the evidence, check out: <http://bible.org/seriespage/authorship-1-john>
  - He had a close, personal relationship with Jesus:
    - John 13:23-25
    - John 19:25-27
  - How did this apostle identify himself? As the apostle whom Jesus loved. Why? \_\_\_\_\_
- **When was it written?**
  - Scholars date the epistle between 60 – 110 A.D. (the exact date is uncertain and debated)
- **To whom was this epistle written?**
  - The church, and possibly, originally to the seven churches that were in Asia (Revelation 2-3)
  - To us (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

### 1 John : Why Did John Write this Epistle?

READ THE ENTIRE EPISTLE (FIVE VOLUNTEERS)

- *Fellowship* : that the reader would experience fellowship in the body of Christ (1 John 1:3)!
  - 1 Corinthians 1:9 – God has called us into fellowship!

## When, to Whom, and Why did John Write this Epistle?

- *Joy* : that our joy would be full (1 John 1:4)!
  - Psalm 16:11 – There is fullness of joy in God’s presence!
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 – There is joy in true fellowship amongst believers!
  - Philippians 2:1-2 – Fellowship and unity are integral to joy!
- *Holiness/Righteousness* : that we would overcome sin and become increasingly sanctified (1 John 2:1)!
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:3a – God’s will is for us to be holy!
  - Romans 12:1 – Holiness is integral to being a living sacrifice to God!
- *Knowledge*:
  - Our sins are forgiven (1 John 2:12)!
  - We know the Triune God (1 John 2:13)!
  - We have already overcome the wicked one (1 John 2:13-14)!
  - We are strong, for the living Word of God abides in us (1 John 2:14)!
  - We know the ultimate truth about Jesus (1 John 2:21)!
  - That we would not be deceived (1 John 2:26)
  - That we would know that we are eternally secure (1 John 5:13)!

## The Joy Ride



Why are these reasons for writing important today?

- The Christian life is one *fueled* by the Holy Spirit, and filled with joy!
- Knowledge, like *handle bars*, is needed to set our lives in the proper direction, and to remain in control.
- Holiness and Fellowship are critical to the joy ride, like the *two wheels*. If they’re damaged, the ride can be bumpy and periodically interrupted. If you don’t have either of the wheels, you’re not going anywhere!
- For a Christian to live a life of joy, he / she needs knowledge, holiness, and fellowship.

1 John is a manual to “the Joy ride.”