

Light, Love, & Life Series:
How The Incarnation Helps Us Live Out The Sacred
Sermon 1 – Introduction
1 John 1:5

- I. Basic Background
 - A. Author – John the apostle
 - 1. Letter is technically anonymous
 - 2. Historically accepted through early testimony to be John
 - B. Date
 - 1. Likely around AD90
 - 2. Likely written after the Gospel of John
 - C. Origin and Audience
 - 1. According to early Christian tradition, John wrote this letter while ministering to churches in Ephesus
 - 2. The audience is almost certainly a Gentile group of believers
- II. Purpose of Writing
 - A. Purpose 1 – To combat the doctrinal issue of denying the Incarnation of Jesus
 - B. Purpose 2 – To combat the denial that God’s moral standard is meaningful and applicable to the Christian
 - C. Both of these stemmed from an early form of Gnosticism
 - 1. Human body “bad”/spiritual & divine are good
 - 2. “Salvation” is an escape from the body
 - a. Complete freedom in physical action, since it doesn’t matter
- III. A Brief Evaluation of the Text
 - A. Incarnational Purpose Statement (1 John 1:1-4)
 - B. Fellowship Through Walking In The Light (1 John 1:5-2:29)
 - C. Fellowship Through Living In Love (3:1-4:21)
 - D. Fellowship Through New Life (5:1-12)
 - E. Result of Incarnational Fellowship
 - b. Complete self-restriction/hyper-discipline