

## **A Short Outline of First John**

**Scripture Reading: I John 4:7-16; 5:11-12,20**

**God is light. God is love. God is life.** These three statements about God are the basis for us to govern our lives. Knowing who God is helps us to know what we should be and what we should do in life.

**God is Light (I John 1:5-7)** Therefore, we should walk in the light.

The world is dark morally and spiritually. It is under the influence of Satan's dark kingdom (Colossians 1:12-13). Truth has been suppressed and skewed with counterfeit philosophies and religions. Man comes into this world with a sinful nature, ignorant and inclined towards pride, selfish desire and lies (Ephesians 2:2-3; I John 2:16). God is like a foreigner who is unknown and unwelcome in this world. God is like someone who shines a bright light into the eyes of a person who has been in the dark a long time and is quite accustomed to the dark (John 3:19-21). God's Spirit and God's Word have sent light into this world. God has most brightly and most steadily shined into the world by sending us His Son (Hebrews 1:1-3)

Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12; 12:32-36). Light is given that we might have knowledge and see the direction in which we should walk in life (Ephesians 5:8-17). Doctrine is not mere intellectual data for storage. Doctrine is for doing the will of God (John 13:17; I Timothy 6:3). Ultimately, God's revealed will is for His people to become like Jesus (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 2:10; I John 2:4-6). Without the knowledge / the light of God in our life, we will only be guessing (and arguing) what is right and wrong. **"What would Jesus do?"** is a good question to regularly ask ourselves. However, the answer to that question can only be discovered if we know **"What did Jesus do?"**

**God is Love (I John 4:7-8, 16)** Therefore, we should dwell in God's love.

A world that is filled with hatred, cruelty, and violence gives some people the impression that there is no God, or that God is not loving, or that He is not powerful enough to stop evil, or that love doesn't really exist. It tempts people to cope by filling their lives with pleasure – satisfying their lusts so they can forget their fears and frustrations. Many people experience friendship and affection, but love is more than that. God has sent a clear message of love through the gospel of Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 15:13). This message, when received, ushers us into a world of love. We are transformed and begin a life of love. As Jesus loved us, so we will love others (John 13:34-35; I John 3:16-19; 4:7-16).

**God is Life (I John 5:11-12, 20)** Therefore, we should receive eternal life from Him and live out that life through the grace of Jesus Christ.

To live a natural life is to be spiritually dead – dead to the things of God (i.e. light and love). God’s Spirit gives life. Through Jesus Christ we are born again. We can know God, love God, and walk with God. Everything gets changed when we have the life of God in our soul (Romans 5:8-11; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 1:1-17; 3:3; 5:24; 11:25-26; 17:1-3; Galatians 2:20; II Corinthians 5:17). We need to make this contagious! See II Corinthians 5:18-20; I John 4:15.

The outline, “God is light; God is love; God is Life” is adapted from “Thru the Bible” with J. Vernon McGee, Volume 5, pg. 755, (Thomas Nelson Publishers).

### Christ Liveth in Me – Daniel W. Whittle (1840 – 1901)

Once far from God and dead in sin,  
No light my heart could see,  
But in God’s Word the light I found,  
Now Christ liveth in me.

As rays of light from yonder sun,  
The flowers of earth set free,  
So life and light and love came forth  
From Christ living in me.

As lives the flower within the seed,  
As in the cone the tree,  
So, praise the God of truth and grace,  
His Spirit dwelleth in me.

With longing all my heart is filled  
That like Him I may be,  
As on the wondrous thought I dwell,  
That Christ liveth in me.