

# “GOD IS LIGHT AND GOD IS LOVE”

## The First Letter of John

**Who wrote The First Letter of John?**

The First Letter of John was written by the Apostle John.

**How did The First Letter of John get its name and/or what does that name mean?**

The First Letter of John is named after its author, the Apostle John.

**When did these events take place?**

This First Letter of John was written toward the end of the first century A.D.

**For more about The First Letter of John:**

See page 1359 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Think about the value we place on light in our world. You are deemed successful when your name “goes up in lights.” Lavish hotels, shopping centers and even parking lots are judged to be the best if they are flooded in lights. If you want someone to notice, put up a light. Light implies importance! Light provides security! Light provides heat! Light fosters growth and new life!

On the flip side, have you ever noticed what happens when you turn a board over that’s been laying in the yard or move a box that’s been sitting in the corner of the basement storage room? Any bugs or spiders run like crazy heading toward new darkness. Darkness provides cover! Darkness hides problems! Darkness makes us blind to things we should see!

It should be no surprise then why the Apostle John chose to begin his first letter with a dissertation on how “God is Light.” When you read this passage (which begins in Chapter 1 verse 5), you see how light to John means everything that is good – especially truth. John teaches us that we can’t live in the darkness of sin but profess that we are walking in the light of God because that is a lie. And living a lie means we are not living in the light of God. The first letter of John makes it very clear that the light of Christ is very revealing and if we are indeed walking with God, very refreshing as well.

John’s analogy of light fittingly responds to many people in the early church who actually proclaimed that they were Christians but had turned their back on the Light and truth of Christ’s teaching. These weren’t people from the outside (non-believers) looking in. These were people from within the Christian community who, because of heresy, began to turn their backs on the church. Do you know teens who profess they are Catholics or Christians but don’t agree with some of the teachings of the church or the Bible? Maybe they even try to get others to believe their lies and false teaching.

The Apostle John inspires all of us to live our lives like a bright light. His first letter encourages us to expose those in the dark, welcoming them into the light of God’s everlasting mercy and salvation. John assures us that God’s light will reflect itself in a life of love for one another. Just like God is Light, so too, God is Love.

**Interesting Fact:** Other than The Book of Revelation, The First Letter of John is the only other book where the word “anti-Christ” appears.

**Bonus Point:** Why is the controversy in the Church in The First Letter of John especially surprising?