

THE 'ONE PAGE' 1 JOHN

AUTHOR:

Not stated but according to church tradition the writer is the apostle John

DATE:

Approximately AD 92

IN 10 WORDS OR LESS:

Jesus was real man just as he is real God

DETAILS:

First John tackles a strange heresy that claimed Jesus had been on earth only in spirit, not in body: 'This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God' (4:2-3). John wrote that he knew Jesus personally, as one that 'we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched' (1:1) and that knowledge leads to a saving belief in Jesus. Saving belief leads to obedience, but even when we sin, we know that 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1:9).

NOTABLE QUOTE:

'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God (4:7).

UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL:

John does not include any of the usual features of a Bible letter such as a greeting and identification of the writer. Even the ending can appear abrupt. Nevertheless, it's a warm and compassionate.

SO WHAT:

'I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life' (5:13).