**1st John** is one of the epistles in the New Testament, traditionally attributed to John the Apostle. Here's a brief summary: -

\*\*Purpose:\*\* Written to combat false teachings and to affirm the nature of Jesus Christ and true Christian fellowship. –

\*\*Themes:\*\* -

\*\*God is Light:\*\* Emphasizing moral purity and the impossibility of fellowship with God while living in sin (1 John 1:5-7). –

\*\*Love:\*\* Love for God and for fellow believers is a critical sign of genuine faith. Love is defined by obedience to God's commandments (1 John 2:3-11, 4:7-21). –

\*\*Christology:\*\* John emphasizes Jesus's dual nature as fully divine and fully human, refuting heretical views like Gnosticism (1 John 1:1-3, 4:2-3). –

\*\*Sin and Righteousness:\*\* The book clarifies that while Christians still sin, there is forgiveness through Christ, but one shouldn't make a practice of sinning (1 John 1:8-2:2, 3:4-10). –

\*\*Faith and Assurance:\*\* John provides tests by which believers can know they are in Christ, including obedience, love, and the presence of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20, 3:19-24, 5:13). –

\*\*Key Verses:\*\* - "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 John 4:16). –

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). –

\*\*Structure:\*\* -

\*\*Prologue (1:1-4):\*\* John establishes his credentials as an eyewitness to Jesus's life. - \*\*Walking in the Light (1:5-2:27):\*\* Discusses sin, forgiveness, and the need to obey God's commandments. –

\*\*Children of God (2:28-3:24):\*\* Focuses on the identity of believers as God's children and the call to righteousness. –

\*\*Testing the Spirits (4:1-6):\*\* Instructions on discerning true from false teachings. –

\*\*Love One Another (4:7-5:12):\*\* Emphasizes love as the mark of true believers. –

\*\*Assurance and Confidence (5:13-21):\*\* Concludes with assurance of eternal life and a warning against idolatry.

1st John is both a letter of encouragement and admonition, urging believers to live lives reflective of their faith in Christ.