

1 John 1:1-4 Jesus is Real!

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Without introducing himself, John immediately begins talking about Jesus. Not only does he expect the audience to know it is him - John, the apostle speaking/writing, but it is also assumed that the audience knew why and what he was talking about.

We know the book author by the title:

- The First Epistle General of JOHN (Oxford King James Version)
- The First Epistle of JOHN (New King James Version)
- The First Letter of JOHN (Revised Standard Version, The New English Bible)
- 1 John (New Living Translation, New International Version)

But why is he writing this?

He is dealing with a growing heresy that was coming into the Church at that time - an idea that was being taught by the Gnostic "know it alls" called "Docetism":

Docetism, (from Greek dokein, "to seem"), **Christian heresy and one of the earliest Christian sectarian doctrines, affirming that Christ did not have a real or natural body during his life on earth but only an apparent or phantom one.**

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Docetism>

In other words, they were saying that Jesus wasn't real. John is making it clear that Jesus is and was real!

1 John 1:1 NKJV - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the **Word of life--**

What beginning? The very beginning!

Genesis 1:1 NKJV - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1 NKJV - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 NKJV - He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 NKJV - All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:4 NKJV - In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 NKJV - And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 1:14 NKJV - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

2 Peter 1:16 NKJV - For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

Luke 24:39 NKJV - "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

John 20:27 NKJV - Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand [here], and put [it] into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

RE Jesus being the "Word the Life"

John 5:26 NKJV - "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

John 14:6 NKJV - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Revelation 19:13 NKJV - He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

1 John 1:2 NKJV - the life [the Word of life, in verse 1] was **manifested**, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was **manifested** to us--

manifested= G5319 = φανερώω phanerōō, fan-er-o'-o; from [G5318](#); to render apparent (literally or figuratively):—appear, manifestly declare, (make) manifest (forth), shew (self). **The KJV translates Strong's G5319 in the following manner:** [make manifest](#) (19x), [appear](#) (12x), [manifest](#) (9x), [show](#) (3x), [be manifest](#) (2x), [show \(one's\) self](#) (2x), [manifestly declare](#) (1x), [manifest forth](#) (1x).

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

- I. to make manifest or visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way
 - A. make actual and visible, realised
 - B. to make known by teaching
 - C. to become manifest, be made known
 - D. of a person
 1. expose to view, make manifest, to show one's self, appear
 - E. to become known, to be plainly recognised, thoroughly understood

1. who and what one is

God is revealing Himself through Jesus! He also reveals himself through creation, but through the person of Christ shows what God is really like.

Romans 1:20 NKJV - For since the creation of the world His invisible [attributes] are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

But Jesus was the full manifestation of what the Father is truly like - the combination of both His law and His love.

John 14:7 NKJV - "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; **and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.**"

John 14:8 NKJV - Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

John 14:9 NKJV - Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

[Mar 4:22 KJV](#) - 22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

1 John 1:3 NKJV - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:4 NKJV - And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

2 Corinthians 1:24 NKJV - Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

2 Corinthians 1:24 KJV - Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.