

Contents



<i>List of Supplemental Elements</i>	page xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiv
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xv
THE LETTER OF 1 JOHN	1
I INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER OF 1 JOHN	3
Authorship	3
Audience and Situation Addressed	4
Rhetorical Constraints Bearing on the Situation	7
The Rhetoric of 1 John	9
Rhetorical Insights into the Situation of the Letter	12
II SUGGESTED READINGS ON THE LETTERS OF JOHN	14
Commentaries	14
Monographs, Essays, and Articles	14
Studies in Greco-Roman Rhetoric	16
III COMMENTARY ON THE LETTER OF 1 JOHN	17
1:1–4: Letter Opening or <i>Exordium</i>	17
1:5–5:12: An Overview of the Rhetoric of the Letter Body or <i>Probatio</i>	27
1:5–2:2: God as Light and Its Implications	30
1:5: The Governing Proposition	31
1:6–7: First Secessionist Claim, Its Refutation, and Counterclaim	33
1:8–9: Second Secessionist Claim, Its Refutation, and Counterclaim	35
1:10–2:2: Third Secessionist Claim, Its Refutation, and Counterclaim	36
	ix

2:3–11: What It Means to Know the God Who Is Light	41
2:3: The Governing Proposition	42
2:4–5a: First Secessionist Claim, Its Refutation, and Counterclaim	44
2:5b–6: Second Secessionist Claim, Its Refutation, and Counterclaim	46
2:7–8: A Parenthesis	48
2:9–11: Third Secessionist Claim, Its Refutation, and Counterclaim	51
2:12–14: A Digression Affirming the Positive Spiritual State of the Faithful	56
2:15–17: Exhortation Not to Love the World	62
2:18–27: Beware the Antichrists and Affirm Jesus as the Christ	66
2:18–19: First Negative Characterization of the Secessionists	68
2:20–21: First Affirmation of the Faithful	71
2:22–23: Second Negative Characterization of the Secessionists	72
2:24–25: Second Affirmation of the Faithful	73
2:26: Third Negative Characterization of the Secessionists	75
2:27: Third Affirmation of the Faithful	76
2:28–3:10: The Identity of the Children of God	79
2:28: Opening Exhortation	82
2:29–3:4: First Antithetical Pair	84
3:5–6: Second Antithetical Pair	89
3:7–8: Third Antithetical Pair	90
3:9–10: Fourth Antithetical Pair	92
3:11–24: Love One Another	94
3:11: Proposition: Love One Another	96
3:12: Opposite by Example: Cain	96
3:13: Exhortation: Do Not Be Astonished	98
3:14: Syllogism: Love as a Sign of Life	98
3:15: Proposition: Hatred Is Murder	99
3:16: Example and Exhortation: Christ's Love Obligates the Same	100
3:17: Rhetorical Question	100
3:18: Exhortation to Fully Love	101
3:19–22: Love in Deed and Truth Brings Reassurance and Boldness Before God	102
3:23–24: Definition of the Commandment and Benefit of Obeying It	104
4:1–6: Distinguishing the Spirit of God from the Spirit of the Antichrist	107
4:1–3: First Test of the Spirits: Confession as Sign	108

<i>Contents</i>	xi
4:4–6: Second Test of the Spirits: Listening to the World versus Listening to God	110
4:7–5:5: Obligations Incurred and Blessings of God’s Love for Us	114
4:7–10: God’s Love as the Source and Imperative of Our Love of One Another	116
4:11–16a: Loving Others and Confessing the Son as Assurance of Abiding in God	118
4:16b–21: Perfect Love Casts Out Fear	121
5:1–5: Conquering the World through Faith	126
5:6–12: Divine Testimony That Jesus Christ Came in Water and Blood as a Gift of Life from God	130
5:6–8: The Testimony of the Johannine Tradition, Water, Blood, and the Spirit	131
5:9–12: The Testimony of God	136
5:13–21: The Conclusion or <i>Peroratio</i>	141
5:13: Calculation	143
5:14–15: Enumeration	144
5:16–17: First Proposal of Policy	145
5:18–20: Threefold Enumeration	146
5:21: Second Proposal of Policy	148
THE LETTER OF 2 JOHN	153
I INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER OF 2 JOHN	155
Author	155
Audience and Situation Addressed	156
Literary and Rhetorical Genres	157
As a Letter	157
As Rhetoric	158
II SUGGESTED READINGS ON THE LETTER OF 2 JOHN	160
III COMMENTARY ON THE LETTER OF 2 JOHN	161
Verses 1–3: Letter Opening	161
Verses 1–2: Prescript	162
Verse 3: Greeting/Blessing	164
Verses 4–5: Exhortation to Obey the Love Commandment	165
Verses 6–11: Beware the Dangers of the Secessionist Deceivers	167
Verse 12: Body Closing	174
Verse 13: Letter Closing	175

xii	<i>Contents</i>
THE LETTER OF 3 JOHN	179
I INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER OF 3 JOHN	181
Author	181
Audience and Situation Addressed	181
Literary and Rhetorical Genres	182
As a Letter	182
As Rhetoric	184
II SUGGESTED READINGS ON THE LETTER OF 3 JOHN	186
III COMMENTARY ON THE LETTER OF 3 JOHN	187
Verses 1–4: Letter Opening	187
Verse 1: Letter Prescript	187
Verses 2–4: Health Wish and Expression of Joy	188
Rhetorical Function as <i>Exordium</i> and <i>Narratio</i>	191
Verses 5–8: The Hospitality of Gaius	191
Verses 9–10: The Inhospitability and Hostility of Diotrephes	196
What Are the Dynamics of the Situation?	197
Honor Challenge and Possible Visit	199
Verses 11–12: Exhortation to Imitate Good versus Evil and a Recommendation of Demetrius	201
Verses 13–14: Letter Closing	203
Verse 15: Letter Postscript	204
<i>Index of Greek and Roman Rhetorical Handbooks</i>	208
<i>Index of Deuterocanonical and Early Christian Writings</i>	211
<i>Index of Scripture and the Apocrypha</i>	213