The Johannine epistles, the Epistles of John, or the Letters of John are three of the catholic epistles of the New Testament, thought to have been written between 85 and 100 AD. Most scholars agree that all three letters are written by the same author, although there is debate on who that author is. This epistle, unlike the other two, is written more as a sermon, one to help strengthen people's faith in Jesus, to help them understand why a being as great as the Son of God would have a mortal life and JOHANNINE ETHICS. Christopher W. Skinner is associate professor of New Testament and early Christianity at Loyola University Chicago and author of Reading John (2015), What Are They Saying about the Gospel of Thomas? How can the Johannine writings speak to us today? The Gospel and Epistles of John are commonly overlooked in discussions of New Testament ethics, often seen as of only limited value for that subject. A distinctive Johannine stream in early Christianity was absent from secondary literature prior to 1970 because it is invisible in our sources for the period (the book of Acts, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Eusebius). It did not come into full view until the nest of assumptions just named had accumulated in New Testament criticism. The connection of the first epistle of John with the Fourth Gospel in thought and language is so close as to make it certain that they are by the same author or that the epistle was written, probably with a knowledge of the gospel, by a disciple of the author of the gospel. It is difficult to weigh the admitted similarities against the differences that also exist, e.g. the absence in the epistle of any Old Testament quotations and of a large number of words.