

John's chiasm in 1 John

A – 1:1-4 – Prologue-Eternal Life manifested and proclaimed
B – 1:5-2:2 – Message Proclaimed: God is Light
C – 2:3-17 – Abiding in Him; Perfected in Love
D – 2:18-27 – You have an anointing from the Holy One
E – 2:28-3:10 – Confidence at His appearing
F – 3:11-18 – Eternal Life expressed through love
in deed and truth (vs. 14)
E' - 3:19-24 – Confidence in the Present
D' - 4:1-6 – You are from God
C' - 4:7-5:5 – Abiding in God; Perfected in Love
B' - 5:6-11 – The Spirit Testified: Eternal Life is in the Son
A' - 5:12-21 – Conclusion-Eternal Life has come; We are in Him who is true: Jesus Christ

I also spent some time filling in some of the parallelism within each corresponding section (A-A', B-B', etc.). The "this is the message" formula generally followed the above chiasm: (1:5) - B, (3:11) F, (5:11) B'.

And... in case you're wondering about the scholarship behind the chiasm...here is John Christopher Thomas' chiasm as it appeared in Novum Testamentum XL-4, "The Literary Structure of 1 John":

A – 1:1-4 – Prologue-Eternal Life
B – 1:5-2:2 – Making Him a Liar (Walking)
C – 2:3-17 – New Commandment
D – 2:18-27 – AntiChrists
E – 2:28-3:10 – Confidence-Do Not Sin
F – 3:11-18 – Love One Another
E' - 3:19-24 – Confidence-Keep the Commands
D' - 4:1-6 – AntiChrists
C' - 4:7-5:5 – God's Love and Ours
B' - 5:6-12 – Making Him a Liar (Testimony)
A' - 5:13-21 – Conclusion-Eternal Life

~ C.A. Hutchinson