

Walking in Truth 2nd & 3rd John

Letter to a Church – 2 John

Introduction – 1-3

1. Author – identified only as “The Elder”
John does not identify in Gospel or Epistles
Last of 12 apostles and an elder in the church
Perhaps known by this title
Content, style fit well with the Apostle John
He speaks of “Truth” & “Love”
He speaks also about an “antichrist” - 7
2. Recipient – “Elect Lady & her Children”
Either a local church or an actual woman
If a woman, she is well known by the church
John speaks of her as chosen in the Lord
John loves her as do all who know the truth
Closing greeting points to a local assembly – 13
“Children of your elect sister greet you”
“Elect sister” refers to a sister church
“Children” refers to members of the assembly
If true we have principles of 1 John applied
Both to an assembly & to an individual
To an assembly meeting in a house – 2 John
To an individual in an assembly – 3 John
3. Theme – Fellowship of “Truth and Love”
Fellowship in 1 John is based on truth & love
2nd epistle helps to make application of this
John writes “for the truth’s sake”
Defender of the truth, for it is God’s truth
God’s truth is within us and it is eternal
4. Greeting – Grace, mercy and peace
These come from the Father & Jesus Christ
God is source of all grace, mercy & peace
God has graciously revealed His truth to us
Fellowship is now based upon truth & love
Love is based on truth & truth produces love

I. Walk in Truth and Love – 4-6

1. Word of Encouragement – 4
John rejoices that they are walking in truth
They are committed to obeying God’s truth
Walking implies continuance & consistency
2. Word of Exhortation – 5
Beseeches her to obey the command “to love”
Word love here is “agape” God’s kind of love
3. Word of Explanation – 6
Love for Christ is seen in obedience
He has commanded us to love one another

II. Truth and Love Applied – v. 7-11

1. Problem – Some are deceivers – 7
Hospitality to strangers is expression of love
In that day lodging found in private homes
If an assembly don’t let them speak or teach

- Don’t encourage or support them
John warns of deceivers who may play on love
They are antichrist – do not confess Christ
2. Prompting – Don’t be taken in – 8
Be alert, discerning so not taken in by error
Don’t lose what you gained from teaching
Don’t jeopardize your reward in Christ
 3. Proof – The test focuses on Christ – 9
To err on doctrine of Christ is not of God
God’s truth found in Person & Work of Christ
Who He is and what He came to accomplish
Those who err on doctrine of Christ are false
 4. Practical Application – 10, 11
Love must be in accordance with truth
If one comes who errs in doctrine of Christ
Do not receive him – offer your hospitality
Do not bid him God’s speed – encourage, support
Don’t encourage or assist spread of evil
Don’t link up with one who promotes error
Cannot love Christ & support those against Him

III. Closing – 12-13

1. John’s desire to minister to her – 12
He could write longer letter but not for now
His desire is to come, visit and talk together
He would enjoy a face to face time together
2. Others join in sending greetings – 13
“Children of elect sister”
May suggest he is writing to a church
Sending greetings from another assembly
Recipient may not be clear, the message is
Truth and love must be joined – Eph 4:15

Letter to Gaius - 3 John

Introduction to 3rd John

1. Author – John writes as “The Elder” – 1
Last of the Apostles, the elder in the church
2. Recipient – Well-beloved Gaius
John wrote to the church but no response – 9
Now writes to one he loves in the church
3. Theme – Welcome & support Demetrius
He is a good man and worthy of your help
May be a travelling preacher & bearer of letter
2 John counsels against receiving false teachers
3 John encourages support of those in the truth

- Church where John is stands behind him
His life & ministry are consistent with the truth
John recommends him with confidence
2. John sends greetings to Gaius – 13-14
John keeps letter brief but hopes to visit soon
He looks forward to seeing Gaius again
Sends greetings of peace from all his friends

I. Walking in the Truth – 1-8

Gaius – Who Practices the Truth

1. Designation of Gaius - 1
Calls him “well-beloved” & “I love in the truth”
Acts 19:29; 20:4; 1Cor. 1:14; Rom. 16:23
Cannot definitely identify this Gaius
2. Desire for Gaius – 2
May prosper, be in health as his soul prospers
John is concerned for his total wellbeing
3. Delight in Gaius – 3-4
Has a good testimony of walking in the truth
John’s delight; know his children walk in truth
4. Diligence of Gaius – 5-8
John commends him for faithful ministry
He ministered to brethren & to strangers
Had a good testimony of manifesting love
Had a reputation for showing hospitality
John urges him to continue this ministry
Lord’s servants are worthy of your help
Hosting them makes you a helper to the truth
Don’t let anyone deter you from this good work

II. Resistance to the Truth – 9-11

Diotrephes – Who Hinders the Truth

1. Prompted by pride & personal ambition- 9
John wrote to the church asking for their help
Diotrephes urged them to reject John’s request
He wants to be preeminent, rule in the church
2. His actions hinder cause of Christ – 10
Spoken evil of John with malicious words
Not open to show hospitality to the brethren
Forbids & excommunicates any who would
Rather than promote the truth he hinders it
3. John’s counsel to Gaius – 11
Don’t allow Diotrephes to influence in evil
Continue ministry of good to God’s servant
Those who do good are of God
Those who do evil have not seen God

III. Consistent with the Truth – 12-14

Demetrius – has a reputation for the Truth

1. Has good report of all who know him - 12