

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."
John 1:7



Winter 2023

session seven

Welcome



Thank you for joining me for session five of our study on 1, 2, & 3 John. Today we are going to look into 2 and 3 John, what some refer to as the cover letters for 1 John. Sometimes we miss the importance of a cover letter, but in reality they are often the road map or

the navigation key to give us a better understanding of what it is attached to.

We will see John personalize his message from his first letter to two different groups and then see him emphasize some of the same points that we have seen him point to already.

I am so grateful for each one of you that are diving into God's word with me. whether you are in person in one of our small groups, an online group, or even as an individual study, please know that I am praying over you! Feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions for you!

Blessings,

Cheryl Jamison



Teaching Notes

#EW_beinthelight



3

2 John, 3 John

Second John is written in the style of a letter and may be outlined in the following way:

Greetings (1-3)

Obedying the truth and living in love (4-13)

Loving one another (4-6)

Being aware of deceivers (7-9)

Guarding one's hospitality (10-11)

Final greetings (12-13)

Third John, which is also in the format of a letter, may be outlined in the following way:

Greetings and commendation (1-8)

Commendation for walking in truth (2-4)

Commendation for supporting missionaries (5-8)

Diotrephes and Demetrius (9-12)

Diotrephes criticized (9-10)

Demetrius praised (11-12)

Final greetings (13-15)



Group Discussion

- Have you experienced hospitality like we read about in 2 John, which reflects Christ and really ministered to you and encouraged you?

- in 2 John 1:4-6 he speaks about a command that they already are aware of. Compare this instruction here in 2 John with John 13:34-35

- At the end of both 2 John and 3 John, the apostle mentions that he has used pen and ink enough; the rest of the things he wants to say are meant for a face-to-face conversation. In our modern day of communicating via technology, are missing the all-important face-to-face conversations? How do you decide between a text or an in-person conversation?

- Our final comparison of 2 John and 3 John in our teaching today was the following:
2 John: True love requires love for the truth
3 John: Love for the truth requires loving truly
Discuss the difference between these two and how do you walk this out in your daily life?

Personal Study 2 & 3 John



1. John repeats "truth" five times in 2 John 1:1-4. What does he say about truth?

verse 1:

verse 1:

verse 2:

verse 3:

verse 4:

2. John also has much to say about "love" in 2 John:1-1-6. What does he say about love?

verse 1:

verse 3:

verse 5:

verse 6:



Personal Study 2 & 3 John

3. What does it mean to *walk* in the truth (as opposed to believing it intellectually)?
4. In contrast to those who are walking in the truth, some people are walking in *error*. Describe their error in your own words (see 2 John 1:7,9).
5. What happens when we try to walk in love without truth (see 2 John 1:8,11)?
7. What happens when we try to walk in truth without love?
8. What does John pray for Gaius (see 3 John 1:2)?

Personal Study 2 & 3 John

9. What good things has John heard about Gaius? (see 3 John 1:2-3)
10. How has Gaius been showing faithfulness, and how should he continue to do so (see 3 John 1:5-8)? Explain in your own words.
11. How is Diotrephes doing exactly the opposite of what John commends Gaius for doing (see 3 John 1:9-10)?
12. What do you think it means to "love to be first" (see 3 John 1:9)?
13. How is the general exhortation in 1 John 3:11 relevant to the situation Gaius faces in his church?
14. How can the truth (3 John 1:12) speak well of someone?