

VI. 2 John

Key Theme | Christians should not support those who are false teachers (2 John 7, 10-11).

- Difference in how we respond to false teachers that claim the name of Christ and ordinary non-Christians
- Our responsibility to ensure those we support in ministry are faithful to the truth
- Applying 2 John's warning today

VII. 3 John

Key Theme | Christians should extend hospitality to those laboring for the sake of the Gospel (3 John 5-8 vs. 3 John 9-11).

- Diotrephes – loves to be first (v. 9)
- Gaius – loves “the brothers” (v. 6)
- Hospitality to Gospel workers = working together with them in the same mission (v. 8)

VIII. Conclusion: *What is true love?*

- 1 John = Instructions on true love
- 2 John = Warning against false love
- 3 John = Gaius, an example of true love

Questions or comments? E-mail

Core Seminars—New Testament

Class 23: 1, 2, & 3 John:

The Love of the Kingdom



And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
-1 John 3:23

I. Introduction | *What is true love?*

II. Background to John's Epistles | *1 John 1:1-3*

- Apostolic authority
- Date and audience

III. Purpose of 1 John | *1 John 5:13*

- The false teachers (2:18-19)...
 - Claimed to be without sin (1:8)
 - Denied Jesus to be the Messiah in human flesh (2:22-23)
 - Denied Jesus' atoning death (5:6)
 - Had no love for Christians (2:11)
 - Had no concern for holiness (3:6-8)

IV. Outline of 1 John

Introduction: John Proclaims the Word of Life (1:1-4)

First Meditation on Assurance (1:5-2:14)

- Those who are in Christ walk in the light (1:5-7)
- Those who are in Christ are forgiven (1:8-2:2)
- Those who are in Christ obey his love command (2:3-11)
- Evidences of grace in John's audience (2:12-14)

Warning Against Following the World (2:15-27)

- Do not love the world (2:15-17)
- Do not listen to the world's message (2:18-27)

Second Meditation on Assurance (2:28-4:6)

- Those who are in Christ do what is right (2:28-3:10)
- Those who are in Christ love one another (3:11-23)
- Those who are in Christ have the Holy Spirit (3:24-4:6)

Exhortation to Love and Faith (4:7-5:12)

- Love like God loved you (4:7-5:4a)
- Have faith in the Christ who died (5:4b-12)

Concluding Remarks: Confidence in Approaching God (5:13-21)

V. John's Tests of Faith

A. Doctrinal Test | What is the content of our belief?

Key verses: 2:1-2, 2:22-23, 4:2-3, 4:15, 5:1

- Importance of right doctrine
- Danger of wrong belief
- Doctrine's effect on evangelism

B. Moral Test | What is the quality of our obedience?

Key verses: 1:5-7, 2:3-7, 2:15-17, 3:6-10, 5:18

- Stark teaching to convict our hearts
- *Not* teaching that "nice people are Christians"
- Do not love the world

C. Social Test | What is the character of our love?

Key verses: 2:8-10, 3:11-18, 4:7-21

- Loving Christians is an essential fruit of true faith
- Love in practical ways
- Love those who are difficult to love