

2-3 John

Introduction

John doesn't introduce himself by name in his Gospel. There he refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." He doesn't introduce himself by name in his epistles, only referring to himself as "the elder." He does identify himself as the author of Revelation.

In his second and third epistles John emphasizes the truths he laid out in 1 John: Jesus has come in the flesh. Love for Jesus translates into obedience to his commands. We are to reflect God's unconditional love to those around us, especially to our fellow Christians who walk with us in the truth.

Love for the truth, love for the truthful

Read 2 John. John refers to himself as "the elder." Why did he apply that term to himself?

Who are "the chosen lady and her children"?

Which is more important: Walking in the truth or being obedient in love? Explain your answer.

What caution does John offer in verse 8? Why is this so important for us to remember?

What does it mean to "go on ahead" (v. 9)?

Identify some ways we might share in the wicked work of supporting and welcoming false teachers.

Who are "the children of your chosen sister"?

Read 3 John. As John writes to Gaius, what distinction does he make in verse 2?

Explain why knowing others are walking in the truth brings such great joy. Explain why departure from the truth brings such great sadness.

Who are "the brothers" mentioned in verse 5? What was Gaius doing to support them?

What was Diotrephes' fundamental problem? How did this problem become apparent in the church?

How was John planning to address Diotrephes' errors?

Based on John's words at the conclusion of his letter, how would you describe the relationship between different Christian congregations in John's day?

How do we celebrate a similar fellowship today?

In his all his writings John demonstrates a particular emphasis on holding to the truth. Do you share his passion for the truth? Do you see the same passion in the Christian church today?