

Walking in the Truth

By This We Know: 2nd & 3rd John

July 23, 2025

First John bases assurance of salvation on two testimonies: our life testimony reflecting Christ, and ultimately, the testimony of God regarding His Son! Now John adds two letters that speak to integrating love and truth regarding hospitality to itinerant “Christian” teachers.

2nd JOHN: When Love Lacks Discernment

[Danger of extending love for one another to false teachers!]

John’s Salutation: *Loving letter to a local “church family”* **2 John 1-4**

“The elder” John, age and esteemed church leader (cf 3:9)

“elect lady” chosen of God in Christ (v.13; Col 3:12; Eph 1:4; 2 Tim 1:9)

a personification of the church, or a respected believer

“her children” the church family, or her individual family

Blessing: Love One Another and Walking in the truth

The loving fellowship of all who are in/know the truth

The Spirit of Truth abides in us forever (1 Jn 4:6; Jn 14:16-17)

God the Father & Son’s ministry to us “in truth and love”

God’s command, John’s joy: loved believers “walking in the truth”

Affirming: Obeying Jesus’ Command and Walking in love

The command from the beginning of the church (John 13:34,35)

Walk in it ... make loving one another a part of church life

Warning: “many deceivers have gone out ... antichrists”

They do not confess Jesus Christ, God in the flesh (1 Jn 2:18-22, 4:2-3)

Abiding: in truth — don’t lose your rewards (1 Jn 2:19; 2 Tim 4:7-8; Jas 1:12)

Those who do not abide in truth in Christ, have not God

Those who abide in truth have the Father & the Son

Applying: do not give hospitality or fellowship to deceivers

To extend such is to endorse them, and their wicked works

Closing Greeting: Prefers “face to face” over writing letters

John looks to sharing joy of being with them again soon (1 Jn 1:3-4)

Greetings from their sister church, chosen of God in Christ (cp v.1)

3rd JOHN: When Love is Discouraged

[Blessing for extending love for one another to true teachers!]

John’s Salutation: *Loving letter to a local churchman* **2 John 1-4**

“The elder” John, age and esteemed church leader (cf 3:9)

“beloved Gaius” beloved friend

Blessing: prays for his blessing, physically and spiritually

“I rejoiced greatly” report from those who had seen Gaius

Gaius’ abiding faith, growing in Christ (walking in the truth)

“my children” Gaius may have been discipled by John

Commendation:

“a faithful thing” Gaius’ ministry “brothers, strangers as they are”

traveling teachers of truth, previously unknown to Gaius

“your love” shown in hospitality, generous giving to support

Positive report to a sister church (where John was, 2 Jn 13)

They are serving Jesus Christ, not asking support from unbelievers

Supporting such as these we are fellow-workers for the truth

Condemnation:

Diotrephes, local church leader, proud and controlling

Rejects John’s authority as apostle, church planter, teacher

Squelched or destroyed John’s letter to the church

Spreads false reports of John’s conduct/character

John will come and seek to correct before the church

Refuses to offer hospitality to traveling teachers of truth

Forbids church members from showing love/hospitality

under threat of being put out of the church

Recommendation:

Imitate good, not evil ... doers of good are from God (1 Jn 2:29)

Doers of evil have not seen (or known) God (1 Jn 3:6)

Demetrius (traveling teacher) known for truth in word/deed

Recommended by other churches and by John’s true word

Closing greetings: Prefers “face to face” over writing letters

Greetings from friends in John’s church to friends in Gaius’