

This. Is. Love.
2 & 3 John
October 28, 2014

I. Background on 2 & 3 John

A. Who

1. The _____
 - a. Traditionally believed to be _____

B. When

1. Late in the _____ Century

C. The Setting

1. Same as for First John
 - a. The secessionists are still preaching _____
 - b. The heresy has to do with _____
2. Second John
 - a. Written to a particular _____ near Ephesus
 - b. It is an exhortation and _____ of things written in 1 John
3. Third John
 - a. Written to a particular _____ of a particular house church

D. Bad to Worse

1. In First John, some members have left to preach heresy
 - a. But the door does not seem _____ closed
2. In Second John, there are “_____” preaching heresy
 - a. And the _____ seems complete and permanent
 - b. It is so bad that John even encourages the church not to show _____ to the secessionists
3. Third John, depicts an even _____ crisis
 - a. There is one man, Diotrephes, who is openly _____ John

II. First John

A. Commitment to Love – Vv. 1-6

1. Two purposes
 - a. To strengthen his members’ _____ to the truth
 - b. To _____ them about the severity of the situation in the church
2. Typical greeting
3. Chosen lady and _____
 - a. Metaphorical way to refer to a _____ and its members
4. “Love in the _____”
 - a. Could mean “_____”
 - b. Could mean they are “_____ the truth”

5. Why do those in the _____ love each other?
 - a. Because the Truth, Jesus, lives _____ us and is _____ us forever
 - b. He gives us the _____ and strength to love one another
6. _____ in the truth – Vs. 4
 - a. Means to live in _____ with the truth of the gospel
 - b. Some?
7. _____ to love
 - a. From the _____
 - b. To love is to _____ Christ
 - c. To obey Christ is to _____
 - d. His purpose here is to help them combat the _____ of the secessionists

B. Specific Warnings – Vv. 7-11

1. Many _____
 - a. Could be translated “ _____ ”
 - b. Leading people _____
2. Antichrist
 - a. Their rebellion against the truth shows them to _____ with the antichrist
3. Present tense – Jesus as coming – Vs. 7
 - a. John is describing the ongoing _____ of Jesus being present with us through the Holy Spirit
4. What are they denying?
 - a. The _____ of Christ
5. Don't _____ ahead
 - a. _____ in the truth about Jesus
6. Hard word on hospitality – Vv. 10-11
 - a. Generally _____ in the New Testament
 - b. What John is likely NOT saying
 - c. “Comes to _____” is plural
 - d. John is saying, don't give these guys a _____ in your church

C. Final Greeting – Vv. 12-13

1. Desire to _____

2. The _____ of your chosen sister

III. Third John

A. House Church Near Ephesus

1. After sending First John, John writes another _____
 - a. Diotrephes _____ the letter
2. John then sent _____ to the church
 - a. Diotrephes refused to _____ them or offer them hospitality
3. Diotrephes even began to _____ malign and slander John
4. Gaius, a leader in a different church, was _____ enough to help the emissaries
 - a. Gave them food, lodging, and monetary _____
5. The emissaries _____ all of this back to John
 - a. John then wrote this letter of 3 John to Gaius in anticipation of a personal _____

B. Who was Diotrephes

1. A _____ in a house church who was at odds with John
 - a. Possibly a _____ disagreement
 - b. But more likely Diotrephes just wanted to maintain _____ over his church

C. Purposes

1. To _____ Gaius
2. To _____ Gaius about Diotrephes
3. To _____ Demetrius to Gaius

D. A Few Points

1. _____ in the truth – Vs. 1
 - a. Both are “in the _____” and as such they love one another
2. Proof that it is well with Gaius’ _____ – Vs. 2-4
 - a. He remains _____ and continues to walk in the truth
 - b. “Faithfulness to the truth” is a _____ commitment to the gospel
3. No greater _____
4. Even by the _____ itself – Vs. 12
 - a. The truth in John is _____
 - b. The truth also refers to the truth of the _____
 - c. So perhaps John is saying, “even his _____ to the truth speaks well of him”

5. Friends – Vs. 14
 - a. Used by Jesus to emphasize _____ love
 - b. So John is again emphasizing the importance of believers _____ one another the way Jesus loved us

IV. Conclusion: Clinging to the Truth

A. The Early Church

1. Sometimes I think we _____ the early church

2. John was not willing to give one _____ on the truth of the gospel

B. We Must Not Budge on the Truth Either

1. We know almost nothing about church _____
2. Some of us tend to see creeds as _____

C. What Can We Do to Hold Tenaciously to the Truth?

1. Know God's _____
2. Learn about the _____ of the church

3. It's up to us to stand for the _____ in our churches and in our homes