

# Great Themes in John's Epistles



## **Reasons for Writing and Themes**

### **Reasons for writing:**

- "that your joy may be full" - 1 John 1:4
- "that you may not sin" - 1 John 2:1
- "that you may know that you have eternal life" - 1 John 5:13a
- "that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" - 1 John 5:13b

### **Recurring Themes:**

- Fellowship with God
- Gift of Christ
- Confidence in our salvation
- Love for God and our brethren
- Two realms – of the world or of God
- Refutation of the Gnostics

## **Lesson 1**

### **Introduction**

#### **Introduction:**

1. John is not named as the author, but if we accept him as author of the fourth gospel, there is little or no room for doubt that he is the author of these epistles.
2. References to these epistles, and quotations from them were ascribed to John the apostle very early in the second century, even by some who claimed to know the apostle personally.

#### **1. John, The Writer:**

- a. John's Early Life:
  - A. Son of Zebedee and Salome and brother of James.
  - B. A prominent family of Galilee having boats and hired servants (Mark 1:20). John was known to the household of the high priest (John 18:15-16) and may have owned a house in Jerusalem.
  - C. He was likely one of the two disciples of John the Baptist who were the first to follow Jesus.
  - D. As one of three disciples closest to Jesus, he was prominent. Yet his name is mentioned much less often than Peter's. He may well have been one of the younger apostles.
  - E. Apparently a very modest man, he does not name himself (except in Revelation), but identifies himself as the "disciple whom Jesus loved." The love and confidence Jesus had in him is indicated by the fact that Jesus committed his mother to John's care.
  - F. Two incidents in his life with Christ prepare us for the epistles:
    1. Luke 9:49
    2. Luke 9:51-56
    3. These and similar unrecorded events may account for the designation in Mark 3:17.
- b. John in the Early Church:
  - A. Active with Peter in the beginning of the church (Acts 3-4; 8:14-17).
  - B. It is widely accepted that he remained in Jerusalem till near its destruction in AD 70. It may well be that in keeping with the instructions of Matthew 24:15-21, he fled just before the event.
- c. John's Later Life (Supplied from secular history and implications in his epistles and Revelation):
  - A. Almost certainly went to live in Ephesus after leaving Jerusalem.
  - B. Revelation finds him an exile on Patmos (just off the coast of Asia) and his letters to the "7 churches" indicate his familiarity with the region.
  - C. Writings of "church fathers" almost unanimously place him in Ephesus (except for his exile) until his death about 98 AD – the only apostle to die a natural death.
  - D. Likely in these later years, near the end of the apostolic period, he wrote his 5 books.

**2. Conditions in the Greek Churches:**

- a. Reflected clearly in Revelation 2 and 3.
- b. The Greek philosophy of "Gnosticism" which later caused great havoc in the churches was apparently having an influence already in Asia. The Gnostics were "the knowing ones". Two or three errors in their thinking led to serious consequences:
  - A. Emphasis on "knowing" as the supreme virtue.
    - 1. Knowing was a substitute for love of the brethren. This may account for John's emphasis on love. (See also 1 Corinthians 8:1-2, 13:2).
    - 2. Knowing was an excuse for "experimenting" with sin (Revelation 2:24). They felt that if one knew God intellectually, what the body did made little difference.
  - B. Their view of matter as evil and spirit as good. This led to errors concerning:
    - 1. Jesus (A divine spirit in a material body was unthinkable).
      - a. Some denied that Jesus had a material body. Cerinthus taught a variation, saying that Jesus was a mere man, but that the divine Christ entered Him at baptism and left Him just before the cross.
      - b. Others denied that He was divine – the Christ.
    - 2. Morality (A pure body was unthinkable).
      - a. Some took the view that since the material body is inherently evil, it should be treated with severity (See Colossians 2:23 for a similar concept refuted).
      - b. More took the position that since it was evil there was nothing that could be done to change the fact, so one was not responsible for what it did.
    - 3. Truth was something to be obtained intellectually, not something to be practiced and obeyed.

## Lesson 2

### 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

1. That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-
2. the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-
3. that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
4. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.
5. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is not darkness at all.
6. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
7. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
8. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

#### Chapter 2

1. My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
2. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

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#### **Introduction:**

John establishes early the intent of his epistle: that the reader's joy might be made full through fellowship with the Apostles and thus with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ (1:3). Having stated this, John begins to explain the basis on which this fellowship is founded. In this section, and in sections to come, John gives conditions for this fellowship's continued existence. Please read 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 several times before answering the questions below.

#### **Questions:**

1. Review lesson one and explain how 1 John 1:1 addresses the teaching of the Gnostics:
2. List the ways John describes the physical contact that he had with the Word of Life (Christ):

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3. Why did John write to them (vs. 4)?
  
4. What was the message that John had heard from Christ (vs. 5)? What do you think this means?
  
5. What are the tests regarding our fellowship with God as described in vs. 6 and 7?
  
6. If we say we have no sin, what is true of us? What is true of Christ (vs. 10)?
  
7. What will happen if we confess our sins?
  
8. Why else did John write to them (2:1)?
  
9. Define the following terms:
  - a. advocate:
  - b. propitiation:
  - c. righteous:

## **Lesson 3**

### **1 John 2:3-14**

3. Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
4. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
5. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.
6. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
7. Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.
8. Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.
9. He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.
10. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.
11. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
12. I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.
13. I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.
14. I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

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#### **Questions:**

1. How can you be sure that you know Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How is God's love perfected in us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the "old commandment"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How is "the darkness" passing away?

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5. In this context, how can one "hate" his brother?
  
6. What is the "cause of stumbling"?
  
7. How do some people lose their sight?
  
8. Who are the "little children"? Why did John write to them?
  
9. Who are the "fathers"? Why did John write to them?
  
10. What did John tell the "young men"?
  
11. How do we know if we are strong?



## **Lesson 4**

### **1 John 2:15-27**

15. Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16. For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world.
17. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
18. Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.
19. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.
20. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.
21. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.
22. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.
23. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.
24. Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
25. And this is the promise that He has promised us -- eternal life.
26. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.
27. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

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#### **Questions:**

1. What is the "world" spoken of in 1 John 2:15?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What three things does the world offer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In what way is the "world passing away"?

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4. Who or what is the "antichrist"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Who are those who "went out from us"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is the "anointing from the Holy One"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In this context, who is a "liar"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What is to "abide in us"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How can we "abide in the Son and in the Father"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What does the "anointing" teach us?

## **Lesson 5**

### **1 John 2:28-3:9**

28. And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
29. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

#### Chapter 3

1. Behold that manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
2. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
3. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
4. Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.
5. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.
6. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.
7. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
8. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
9. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

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#### **Questions:**

1. How can we have confidence?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do we know if one has been born of God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why does the world "not know us"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. According to 1 John 3:2, what has been revealed?

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5. What is the "hope" mentioned in 1 John 3:3?
  
6. How is sin defined in 1 John 3:4?
  
7. Why was the Son of God manifested?
  
8. Does 1 John 3:6 teach it is impossible for a Christian to sin?
  
9. How do we know if one is righteous?
  
10. How does Christ destroy the works of the Devil?
  
11. In what can we say we "cannot sin"?

## **Lesson 6**

### **1 John 3:10-23**

10. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
  11. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,
  12. not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.
  13. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.
  14. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.
  15. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
  
  16. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
  17. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
  18. My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
  19. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.
  20. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
  21. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.
  22. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
  23. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
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#### **Introduction:**

John has already introduced the subject of loving our fellow Christians in 2:9-11, but, as is frequently John's approach, he comes back to an earlier topic to expand upon it. Here he stresses that this love must take action. He also makes it clear that this kind of love is one of the essential tests for determining whether we are of the truth.

#### **Questions:**

1. In vs. 10 what two groups are said to not be of God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was the message they had heard from the beginning? Compare to I John 2:7.

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3. Are we to be surprised if the world hates us? Read John 15:18-25.
  
4. According to vs. 14, what evidence is there that shows we have passed from death to life? What would show that we still abide in death?
  
5. What does John call someone who hates his brother?
  
6. What is the example we have of the love we should show our brethren?
  
7. How are we commanded to love in vs. 18? Specifically what should we do according to vs. 17?
  
8. Make a short list of the needs of our Christian brothers and sisters that we could possibly provide:
  
9. In verses 19-23 John explains to us how we can have confidence in our relationship with God. Vs. 19 is connected to the verses that immediately preceded it, thus how do we know that we are of the truth?
  
10. When can we expect to receive from God what we ask?
  
11. What two things make up God's commandment to us according to vs. 23? Compare vs. 23 to vs. 10. Note that the message is the same, but it is stated first negatively and then positively.

## **Lesson 7**

### **1 John 3:24 – 4:11**

24. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

#### Chapter 4

1. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
2. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,
3. and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.
4. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
5. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.
6. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
  
7. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
8. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
9. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
10. In this is love, not that we love God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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#### **Introduction:**

As is true of many sections in this epistle, John here makes it clear that we must make a decision. We either abide in God or we are of the world; we either listen to the Spirit of God or follow the spirit of the Antichrist. We decide, but as John insists, we cannot have it both ways.

#### **Questions:**

1. How do we know if God abides in us and we in Him (vs. 24)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. According to 4:1 why should we not believe every spirit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What must a spirit confess in order to be in harmony with the Spirit of God?

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4. As opposed to the Spirit of God, what is true of the spirit of the Antichrist?
5. Look at vs. 4 and 5, who is the He that is in you? Who is the he who is in the world? Who are the "they" of vs. 5?
6. What determines whether a person is of God or not of God according to vs. 6?
7. Yet another test of our fellowship with God is found in vs. 7-8. How can we be sure that we are born of God and that we know God?
8. How did God demonstrate His love for us? What did He intend to be the end result (vs. 9)?
9. Why was Christ sent (vs. 10)? Where else in the epistle has Jesus been referred to by the same term?
10. What should motivate us to love one another?



## **Lesson 8**

### **1 John 4:12 – 5:5**

12. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.
13. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He is us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
14. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.
15. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
16. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
  
17. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.
18. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
19. We love Him because He first loved us.
  
20. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?
21. And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

#### Chapter 5

1. Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
2. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.
3. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
4. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith.
5. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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#### **Introduction:**

A number of the themes we have studied throughout this epistle are stressed once more in this section: confidence in our salvation, fellowship through obedience, the true nature of Christ, and above all else, the role of love in determining our fellowship with God.

#### **Questions:**

1. What is the test of God abiding in us (4:12)?
  
2. What is another indication that we abide in God (4:13)?

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3. Who are the "we" that have seen and testified (4:14)?
4. What must a person confess for God to abide in him or her?
5. What did John know and believe in?
6. How has love been perfected among us (4:17)?
7. What should we have in the Day of Judgment (4:17)?
8. What casts out fear? What fear may be under consideration here (4:18)?
9. Why do we love God (4:19)?
10. What commandment do we have from God?
11. Compare 5:1 and 4:15. How would these passages refute the doctrines of the Gnostics?
12. How do we show love for the children of God?
13. What is the victory that has overcome the world (5:4)?

## **Lesson 9**

### **1 John 5:6-13**

6. This is He who came by water and blood -- Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.
  7. For there are three who bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.
  8. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.
  9. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.
  10. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.
  11. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
  12. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
  13. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
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#### **Questions:**

1. How did Christ overcome the world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who bore witness in Heaven?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Who bore witness on the Earth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Who are these witnesses on the Earth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How would you contrast the witness of men with the witness of God?

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6. What witness do we have in ourselves?

7. How could one make God a liar?

8. Where can we find eternal life?

9. How can we know that we have eternal life?

10. According to verse # 13 – what is another reason John wrote this epistle?



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6. In what way can the "wicked one" not "touch the righteous?"

7. What "understanding" has God given us?

8. What are the "little children" to stay away from?

To be **BORN OF GOD**, one must...

- Love (4:7)
- Believe (5:1)
- Acknowledge (2:23)
- Confess (4:2)
- Obey (3:24)
- Practice Righteousness (3:7)

## Lesson 11

### 2 John

1. To the elect lady and her children, who I love in truth, and not only I but also all those who have known the truth,
2. because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:
3. Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.
4. I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.
5. And now I plead with you lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.
6. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.
7. For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
8. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.
9. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.
10. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;
11. for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.
12. Having many things to write to you, I so not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.
13. The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

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#### Introduction:

In this epistle and in III John, we have a unique opportunity to study a very personal note from an Apostle. These two books are every bit as much scripture as the books of Romans or Hebrews, but in them we can see a clearer picture of the church in the First Century and of the individuals who made up the body of Christ. II John is written to a faithful woman, whom John praises, rejoices with and warns.

#### Questions:

1. How does John refer to this woman at the beginning of the epistle?
2. How does John refer to himself at the beginning? Are there others of a similar mind as John? What unites them (vs. 1-2)?
3. Organize vs. 3 into three groups: three things wished for her, the descriptions given of God and Christ, and two aspects of our relationship with God:

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4. What made John rejoice (vs. 4)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What did John write that had been true from the beginning? Find at least two similar references in I John.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What did John warn her of in vs. 7? Find at least two related warnings in I John.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What is the importance of the doctrine of Christ (vs. 9)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How should we respond to someone who is opposed to this doctrine? Why (vs.11)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why did John hope to see her (vs. 12)? Compare to I John 1:4.



## Lesson 12

### 3 John

1. THE ELDER, to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:
2. Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.
3. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.
4. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.
5. Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,
6. who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,
7. because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.
8. We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.
9. I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.
10. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.
11. Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.
12. Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.
13. I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;
14. but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

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#### **Introduction:**

Once more in this epistle, as in II John, John writes a very personal note to a Christian for whom he declares his love. There are many similarities in this letter and II John, but note that his warnings take on a more specific plea. He actually names a brother who is causing great dissension. At the same time, his affection for Gaius and Demetrius and all fellow workers for the truth is abundant and indicative of the affection we should have today.

#### **Questions:**

1. List similarities between this letter and II John:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. To whom is the letter written and what does John say of his affection for him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What was his prayer for Gaius?

## Great Themes in John's Epistles

4. What was true of this man (vs. 3)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What gave John joy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Review vs. 5-8. What was Gaius doing for many and what was John's comments regarding him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How do we become fellow workers for the truth (vs. 8)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What was the behavior of Diotrephes toward John? ; towards other Christians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What should we imitate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Who had a good testimony from all?