

Bibliography of the Epistles of John

Bruce, F. F., *The Epistles of John* (Eerdmans, 1970)

Burdick, Donald W., *The Letters of John the Apostle* (Moody, 1985)

Ironside, H. A., *Addresses on the Epistles of John* (Loizeaux, 1931)

Lias, John J., *An Exposition of the First Epistle of John* (1887; rpt. Klock and Klock, 1982)

Marshall, I. Howard, *The Epistles of John, NICNT* (Eerdmans, 1978)

Morgan, James, and Samuel Cox, *The Epistles of John* (1865; rpt. Klock and Klock, 1982)

Pentecost, J. Dwight, *The Joy of Fellowship: A Study of First John* (Zondervan, 1977)

Stott, John R. W., *The Epistles of John, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* (Eerdmans, 1964)

Strauss, Lehman, *The Epistles of John* (Loizeaux, 1962)

Van Gorder, Paul R., *In the Family: Studies in First John* (Radio Bible Class, 1978)

Teaching through 1-2-3 John

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic and Chapter</u>
1.	An Introduction to First John (1 John 1:1-4)
2.	Fellowship With God by Walking in the Light (1 John 1:5-10)
3.	Godliness Demonstrates Fellowship with God (1 John 2:1-11)
4.	Sanctification Demonstrates Fellowship with God (1 John 2:12-17)
5.	A Scriptural Walk Demonstrates Fellowship with God (1 John 2:18-29)
6.	Righteousness Identifies God's Sons (1 John 3:1-10)
7.	Love Identifies God's Sons (1 John 3:10-24)
8.	How to Recognize False Teachers (1 John 4:1-6)
9.	How to Distinguish the True from the False (1 John 4:7-21)
10.	God's Children Believe Him (1 John 5:1-13)
11.	God's Children Have Power with Him (1 John 5:14-21)
12.	Walk in Love and Guard Against Error (2 John 1-13)
13.	Serve Faithfully and Humbly (3 John 1-14)

Lesson 1: An Introduction to First John (1 John 1:1-4)

Key Verse: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3)

Introduction: About A.D. 90, the Apostle John wrote a letter to the Church of Ephesus to instruct them in doctrine and to warn them against a rising heresy.

I. The Purpose of the Epistle

A. It is revealed by the words "these things are written that..."

1. That your joy may be full (1:4)
2. That you may not sin (2:1)
3. That you may recognize deceivers (2:26)
4. That you may know you have eternal life (5:13)

B. It is revealed by the word "know"

1. We may know that we know God (2:3)
2. We may know that we are in Him (2:5)
3. We may know that it is the last hour (2:18)
4. We know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of God (2:29)
5. We know we shall be like Him (3:2)
6. We know we have passed from death unto life (3:14)
7. We may know love (3:16)
8. We may know we are of the truth (3:19)
9. We may know that God abides in us (3:24)
10. We may know the Spirit of God (4:2)
11. We may know the spirit of truth and error (4:6)
12. We may know that we abide in God (4:13)
13. We may know that we love the children of God (5:2)
14. We may know that we have eternal life (5:13)
15. We may know that we have the petitions we ask (5:15)
16. We may know Him who is true (5:20)

II. The Prologue of the Epistle (1 John 1:1-4)

(The Word of Life has been revealed to man)

- A. John was an eyewitness of the Word of Life (1:1)
- B. Eternal life has been manifested and declared (1:2)
- C. This made fellowship with God possible (1:3)
- D. The book was written to make joy full (1:4)

Conclusion: This small epistle is still important for Christians today.

Lesson 2: Fellowship With God by Walking in the Light (1 John 1:5-10)

Key Verse: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
(1 John 1:7)

Introduction: The Apostle John reminded Christians of the incarnate Word that brought eternal life to lost mankind. He then outlined the conditions whereby a Christian may maintain continuous fellowship with God: walking in the light and instant confession of sins.

I. Walking in the Light Is Fellowship with God (1 John 1:5-7)

- A. Fellowship with God must be in light (1:5)
 - 1. God is perfect light
 - 2. There is no darkness in Him
- B. There is no fellowship with God in darkness (1:6)
 - 1. The alternate claim is false
 - 2. The alternate practice is impossible
- C. Fellowship with God requires walking in the light (1:7)
 - 1. Those walking in the light have fellowship with God
 - 2. Those walking in the light have cleansing from God

II. Walking in the Light Requires Cleansing from Sin (1 John 1:8-10)

- A. The sin nature is not eradicated (1:8)
 - 1. Denial of sin is self deception
 - 2. Denial of sin is devoid of truth
- B. Confession of sins results in forgiveness and cleansing (1:9)
 - 1. Confession is man's responsibility
 - 2. God is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse
 - 3. God cleanses from all unrighteousness
- C. Sinless perfection is not possible (1:10)
 - 1. Denial of sin makes God a liar
 - 2. Denial of sin evidences ignorance of God's Word

Conclusion: A sinner may fellowship with God only by receiving His provision of eternal life, by walking in the light, and maintaining continuous cleansing from sin.

Lesson 3: Godliness Demonstrates Fellowship with God (1 John 2:1-11)

Key Verse: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments."
(1 John 2:3)

Introduction: Having established the fact of fellowship with God, John outlined several tests whereby a Christian may know he is in fellowship with Him: A saintly walk, a separated walk, and a Scriptural walk demonstrate fellowship with God. In this lesson the saintly walk is considered.

I. Christ is the Heavenly Advocate in Case of Sin (1 John 2:1-2)

- A. The former truths demonstrate that Christians need not sin (2:1)
 - 1. John had written about fellowship, sin, and forgiveness
 - 2. He wrote this so that they may not sin
- B. Those who sin have an advocate in Christ (2:1)
 - 1. There is hope in case any Christian sins
 - 2. We have an advocate with the Father
 - 3. The Advocate is Jesus Christ, the Righteous One
- C. Christ is the propitiation for all sin (2:2)
 - 1. Christ is the propitiation for the Christian's sin
 - 2. His propitiation is not for Christians only
 - 3. His propitiation is also for the whole world

II. A Saintly Walk Demonstrates Fellowship with God (1 John 2:3-11)

- A. A obedient walk demonstrates knowing God (2:3-5)
 - 1. We may know that we know God (3)
 - 2. Keeping God's commandments is evidence (3)
 - 3. The evidence is absolutely essential (4)
 - a. If one claims to know God and
 - b. If one does not keep God's commandments
 - c. He is a liar, devoid of truth
 - 4. Keeping God's word is evidence of godly love (5)
- B. A righteous walk demonstrates being in Christ (2:5-6)
 - 1. Keeping God's word is evidence of being in Christ (5)
 - 2. Our walk must coincide with our claim of abiding in Christ (6)
- C. A loving walk demonstrates walking in the light (2:7-11)
 - 1. Love is both an old and new command (7-8)
 - 2. Brotherly hatred is not of the light (9)
 - 3. Whoever loves his brother abides in light (10)
 - 4. Whoever hates his brother walks in darkness (11)

Conclusion: Jesus Christ our advocate with the Father makes fellowship with Him possible. A saintly walk of obedience, righteousness, and love demonstrate the reality of this fellowship.

Lesson 4: Sanctification Demonstrates Fellowship with God (1 John 2:12-17)

Key Verse: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15)

Introduction: Sanctification is separation from the world and unto God. A godly walk is evidence of fellowship with God, and a separated walk bears the same evidence. This lesson considers the separated walk.

- I. Every Christian May Fellowship with God (1 John 2:12-14)
 - A. Little children may fellowship with God (2:12-13)
 - 1. Their sins are forgiven for His name sake (12)
 - 2. They have known the Father (13)
 - B. Fathers may fellowship with God (2:13-14)
 - 1. They have known the God (13, 14)
 - 2. The God is eternal (13, 14)
 - C. Young men may fellowship with God (2:13-14)
 - 1. They have overcome the wicked one (13-14)
 - 2. They are strong (14)
 - 3. The Word of God abides in them (14)
 - 4. They have overcome the wicked one (14)

- II. A Separated Walk Demonstrates Fellowship with God (1 John 2:15-17)
 - A. Do not love the world or worldly things (2:15)
 - B. Loving the world excludes loving God (2:15)
 - 1. If anyone loves the world system
 - 2. Then the love of the Father is not in him
 - C. The things of the world are not of God (2:16)
 - 1. The lust of the flesh is of the world
 - 2. The lust of the eyes is of the world
 - 3. The pride of life is of the world
 - 4. These are not of the Father
 - D. Worldly things will pass away (2:17)
 - 1. The world will pass away
 - 2. The lusts of the world will pass away
 - E. The sanctified remain forever (2:17)
 - 1. He who does God's will is sanctified
 - 2. He abides forever

Conclusion: Those who are separated from the world and unto God enjoy fellowship with God. This should be the daily goal of the Christian.

Lesson 5: A Scriptural Walk Demonstrates Fellowship with God (1 John 2:18-29)

Key Verse: "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things."
(1 John 2:20)

Introduction: The apostle John argues that those who fellowship with God must abide in sound doctrine and practice righteous living.

I. Those of Antichrist Have Departed the Scriptural Walk (1 John 2:18-19)

A. Many with the spirit of Antichrist are present (2:18)

1. It is the last hour
2. The Antichrist is coming
3. Many antichrists are now come
4. This proves it is the last hour

B. They have departed from the fellowship (2:19)

1. They went out from the fellowship
2. They were not of the fellowship
 - a. If they were of the fellowship
 - b. Then they would not have departed
 - c. Their departure proves their apostasy

II. True Believers Know Sound Doctrine (1 John 2:20-21)

A. They have an anointing from the Holy Spirit (2:20)

B. They may know all doctrinal truth (2:20-21)

1. John wrote because they knew the truth (21)
2. Truth is free of all lies (21)

III. Antichrist Denies the Deity and Messiahship of Jesus (1 John 2:22-23)

A. It is a lie to deny that Jesus is the Christ (2:22)

B. It is a lie to deny the deity of Jesus Christ (2:22)

C. Such denial is characteristic of antichrist (2:22)

D. The doctrines of the Father and the Son are inseparable (2:23)

1. Denial of the Son is denial of the Father
2. Acknowledgment of the Son is acknowledgment of the Father

IV. Abiding in Sound Doctrine Demonstrates Abiding in God (1 John 2:24-27)

A. Sound doctrine abide in the believer (2:24)

B. This enables abiding in the Father and the Son (2:24)

C. God has promised the believer eternal life (2:25)

D. Believers may know sound doctrine (2:26-27)

1. They should be warned about deceivers (26)
2. They have an anointing from the indwelling Holy Spirit (27)
3. The Holy Spirit teaches true doctrine (27)
4. The Holy Spirit teaches one to abide in God (27)

V. Abiding in God Gives Confidence for the Judgment (1 John 2:28)

A. Abiding gives confidence when He appears

B. Abiding delivers from fear at His coming

VI. Practicing Righteousness Demonstrates the New Birth (1 John 2:29)

- A. Believers know that God is righteous
- B. Everyone who practices righteousness is born of God

Conclusion: Those who abide in sound doctrine and righteous living have true fellowship with God.

Lesson 6: Righteousness Identifies God's Sons (1 John 3:1-10)

Key Verse: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

Introduction: After defining fellowship with God, and the tests whereby one may know he has fellowship with God, John identified believers as sons of God. He then demonstrated that righteousness and love are two tests whereby one may know he is a son of God. This lesson considers the test of righteousness.

I. In Love God Made Us Sons of God (3:1-3)

- A. In love God named us "sons of God" (3:1)
 - 1. God has bestowed marvelous love upon us
 - 2. He has called us "the sons of God"
 - 3. Therefore the world does not know us
- B. We now are sons of God (3:2)
 - 1. We do not know what we will be like
 - 2. But we do know we will be like Him
 - 3. We will be able to see Him as He is
- C. This hope has a purifying effect (3:3)
 - 1. All who have this hope are affected
 - 2. They are motivated to purify themselves
 - 3. The standard is the purity of Christ

II. Righteousness Identifies God's Sons (3:4-10)

- A. In Christ, God's sons strive for sinlessness (3:4-6)
 - 1. Sin is lawlessness (4)
 - 2. Christ is sinless (5)
 - 3. Christ came to take away sin (5)
 - 4. Whoever abides in Christ does not practice sin (6)
 - a. Whoever practices sin has not seen Him
 - b. Whoever practices sin does not know Him
- B. God's sons practice righteousness (3:7)
- C. In Christ, God's sons strive against sin (3:8-9)
 - 1. Whoever practices sin is of the devil (8)
 - 2. The Son of God came to destroy the devil's work (8)
 - 3. Whoever is born of God does not practice sin (9)
 - 4. Whoever is born of God cannot sin (9)
- D. Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God (3:10)
 - 1. Righteousness identifies the sons of God
 - 2. Unrighteousness identifies the sons of devil
- E. Whoever does not love his brother is not of God (3:10)

Conclusion: Counterfeit Christians may be identified by their practice of unrighteousness, true Christians by righteousness and purity.

Lesson 7: Love Identifies God's Sons (1 John 3:10-24)

Key Verse: "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." (1 John 3:14)

Introduction: John demonstrated that righteousness and love are two tests whereby one may know he is a son of God. This lesson considers the test of love.

- I. God's Sons Are Identified by Love (1 John 3:10-18)
 - A. Whoever does not love is not of God (3:10b)
 - B. God's historic message to His sons is love (3:11-13)
 1. The message was from the beginning (11)
 2. The message commands brotherly love (11)
 3. Cain was a negative example (12)
 - a. He was of the wicked one
 - b. He killed his brother
 - c. Because he was wicked and Abel was righteous
 4. Likewise the world hates Christians (13)
 - C. Love identifies those possessing eternal life (3:14-15)
 1. True believers know they have eternal life (14)
 2. Because they love the brethren (14)
 3. Those lacking brotherly love abide in death (14)
 4. Those hating their brother are murderers (15)
 5. No murderer possesses eternal life (15)
 - D. Love is known by sacrificial service (3:16-18)
 1. God laid down His life for us (16)
 2. We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren (16)
 3. Lack of sacrificial service proves lack of love (17)
 4. Love must be demonstrated by deeds (18)
 - a. True love is more than mere words
 - b. True love is in deed and truth
- II. Righteousness and Love Give Assurance of Sonship (1 John 3:19-24)
 - A. They give knowledge of being in the truth (3:19)
 - B. They give assurance before God (3:19-21)
 1. They assure our hearts before God (19)
 2. A guilty conscience condemns us (20)
 3. God is greater than the conscience (20)
 4. A clear conscience gives confidence before God (21)
 - C. They give confidence in prayer (3:22)
 - D. They give assurance of mutual indwelling (3:23-24)
 1. The righteous abide in Him and He in them (23-24)
 - a. They keep His commandments (23-24)
 - b. They believe on the name of His Son (23)
 - c. They love one another (23)
 2. He has given them the Holy Spirit (24)
 3. This gives knowledge of indwelling (24)

Conclusion: True sons of God may be identified by genuine brotherly love and righteous living.

Lesson 8: How to Recognize False Teachers (1 John 4:1-6)

Key Verse: "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God." (1 John 4:2)

Introduction: After giving tests whereby a person may know that he is a son of God, John gives tests for recognizing the true from the false. This lesson considers the tests for recognizing true teachers from false ones.

I. The Prophetic Spirits Must Be Tested (1 John 4:1)

- A. Not every prophetic spirit should be believed
- B. Prophetic spirits should be proved genuine
- C. Many false prophets are in the world
 - 1. False prophets were put to death in Israel (Deut 13:1-5)
 - 2. False prophets gave false predictions (Deut 18: 20-22)

II. Test the Spirits on the Doctrine of Christ (1 John 4:2-3)

- A. The Holy Spirit confesses Christ's deity and humanity (4:2)
 - 1. He confesses that Jesus in the Christ
 - 2. He confesses that the Christ came in the flesh
- B. The spirit of Antichrist denies Christ's deity and humanity (4:3)
 - 1. Such a spirit is not of God
 - 2. Such a spirit if of Antichrist

III. Test the Spirits on Worldliness (1 John 4:4-5)

- A. The Holy Spirit overcomes the world (4:4)
 - 1. True believers are of God
 - 2. True believers overcome the world
 - 3. The indwelling Holy Spirit gives overcoming power
- B. The spirits of Antichrist are approved by the world (4:5)
 - 1. They are of the world system
 - 2. They speak the world's message
 - 3. Their message is received by worldly people

IV. Test the Spirits on Apostolic Doctrine (1 John 4:6)

- A. The apostles are of God
- B. True believers accept apostolic doctrine
- C. Unbelievers reject apostolic doctrine
- D. This is a test for truth and error

Conclusion: False teachers reject the doctrines of Christ, separation, and Biblical authority. Christians should never waver from these truths.

Lesson 9: How to Distinguish the True from the False (1 John 4:7-21)

Key Verse: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

Introduction: After giving the tests whereby a person may recognize false prophets, John gives some tests for distinguishing true sons of God from counterfeits, true abiding in God from pretense, and true love for God from fraud.

- I. How to Recognize True Sons of God (1 John 4:7-11)
 - A. Brotherly love identifies true sons of God (4:7-8)
 1. Brotherly love is based on God (7)
 - a. God is love
 - b. Love is of God
 2. True sons of God love each other (7)
 3. Lack of love demonstrates lack of sonship (8)
 - B. God's love was manifested toward us (4:9-10)
 1. God sent His Son that we might live (9)
 2. God's action was based on His love (10)
 - a. Not that we loved God
 - b. But that God loved us
 3. God's love was sacrificial (10)
 - a. He sent His Son
 - b. The Son was a propitiatory sacrifice
 - C. God's love is the motivation for brotherly love (4:11)
- II. How to Recognize Those in Whom God Mutually Dwells (1 John 4:12-16)
 - A. Brotherly love proves that God abides within (4:12)
 - B. The Holy Spirit proves mutual abiding (4:13)
 - C. Confessing Jesus' deity proves mutual abiding (4:14-15)
 - D. Abiding in love proves mutual abiding (4:16)
- III. How to Recognize Genuine Love for God (1 John 4:17-21)
 - A. Genuine love is bold and fearless (4:17-18)
 1. Genuine love gives boldness (17)
 - a. We may be bold in the day of judgment
 - b. Because we exercise Godly love
 2. Genuine love casts out fear (18)
 - B. Genuine love is based on God's love (4:19)
 - C. Brotherly love is indispensable for genuine love (4:20-21)
 1. Love and hate are mutually exclusive (20)
 2. Love of God and of brethren are mutually commanded (21)

Conclusion: In a day when false doctrine and deceit abound, Christians must know how to distinguish the true from the counterfeit.

Lesson 10: God's Children Believe Him (1 John 5:1-13)

Key Verse: "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified." (1 John 5:9)

Introduction: After explaining how to distinguish the true from the false, John stated the significance of true faith in Jesus Christ. Because God's witness is wholly reliable, believers may know that they have eternal life.

I. God's Children Have True Faith in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:1-5)

- A. All God's children believe that Jesus is the Christ (5:1)
- B. True faith results in love and obedience (5:1-3)
 - 1. Love for God and brother are inseparable (1)
 - 2. Obedience and love are inseparable (2-3)
 - a. We know true brotherly love by obedience (2)
 - b. We know true love for God by obedience (3)
- C. God's children overcome the world by faith (5:4)
 - 1. God's children overcome the world
 - 2. Faith provides victory over the world
- D. God's children believe in the deity of Jesus (5:5)

II. God's Children Believe God's Witness (1 John 5:6-13)

- A. God has given true witness about Jesus (5:6-8)
 - 1. The water and blood bear witness (6, 8)
 - 2. The Father bears witness (7)
 - 3. The Word bears witness (7)
 - 4. The Holy Spirit bears witness (7, 8)
 - 5. All these witnesses agree (8)
- B. God's witness is better than man's (5:9)
 - 1. We are willing to believe the witness of men
 - 2. God's witness is more reliable than man's
- C. True believers have the witness within them (5:10)
- D. Unbelievers treat God as a liar (5:10)
 - 1. Unbelievers make God a liar
 - 2. Because they do not believe His witness about His Son
- E. God witnessed that eternal life is in His Son exclusively (5:11-12)
 - 1. God has given us eternal life (11)
 - 2. Eternal life is in God's Son (11)
 - 3. Whoever has the Son has life (12)
 - 4. Whoever does not have the Son does not have life (12)
- F. God's witness gives assurance of eternal life (5:13)
 - 1. John wrote to believers
 - 2. His purpose was to give assurance of life
 - 3. His purpose was to encourage continuing faith

Conclusion: Faith in God's witness about salvation through His Son results in eternal life and assurance of salvation.

Lesson 11: God's Children Have Power with Him (1 John 5:14-21)

Key Verse: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us." (1 John 5:14)

Introduction: Because God's witness is wholly reliable, believers may know they have eternal life, answered prayer, and fellowship with the one true God.

I. God's Children Receive Answered Prayers (1 John 5:14-17)

- A. God hears requests that are according to His will (5:14)
 - 1. We should ask for what is in His will
 - 2. God hears this kind of request
 - 3. We can have confidence in Him about this
- B. God's children receive the petitions that God hears (5:15)
 - 1. Because we know He hears such petitions
 - 2. We know we have the things for which we ask
- C. God's children may pray for some sinning brothers (5:16-17)
 - 1. Some sin does not lead to physical death (16)
 - 2. We may pray for a brother sinning such sin (16)
 - 3. God will grant prolonged life in answer to such prayer (16)
 - 4. Some sin does lead to physical death (16-17)
 - 5. We may not pray for a brother sinning such sin (16)

II. God's Children Know the True God (1 John 5:18-21)

- A. They know and practice freedom from sin (5:18)
 - 1. True believers do not practice sin
 - 2. True believers guard themselves
 - 3. The wicked one does not touch them
- B. They know they are of God, not of the world (5:19)
 - 1. They know they are of God
 - 2. They know they are not of the world
 - 3. Because the world is under the sway of the wicked one
- C. They know Jesus Christ, the true God (5:20)
 - 1. They know the Son of God has come
 - 2. They know He has given them understanding
 - 3. This understanding enables them to know the true God
 - 4. They are in the true God, in His Son Jesus Christ
 - 5. He is the true God
 - 6. Being in Christ is eternal life
- D. They keep themselves from idolatry (5:21)

Conclusion: Faith in God's promises and in the God of the promises gives confidence for holy living and answered prayer.

Lesson 12: Walk in Love and Guard Against Error (2 John 1-13)

Key Verse: "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another." (2 John 5)

Introduction: The apostle John, as an elder statesman, wrote to a church commending the members for adhering to the truth. He then reminded them that love and truth are inseparable elements of Christ's commandment. Finally he warned them against false teachers who were denying the doctrine of Christ.

Salutation: John greeted the elect lady and children. (2 John 1-3)

1. John loved them in truth
2. All who know the truth love them
3. Their love is based on indwelling truth
4. Greetings from the Father and the Son in truth and love

I. Walk in Love as You Do in Truth (2 John 4-6)

- A. John rejoiced that the children walked in truth (4)
- B. John urged them to also walk in mutual love (5)
- C. True love is walking in Christ's commandment (6)
 1. The commandment was from the beginning
 2. Christ commanded walking in love

II. Guard Against Departing from the Truth (2 John 7-11)

- A. Many deceivers have departed from the truth (7)
 1. They deny the incarnation of Christ
 2. They are antichrist deceivers
- B. Carelessness may rob one of full reward (8)
- C. True doctrine is vital to a relationship with God (9)
 1. Those who leave the doctrine of Christ do not have God
 2. Those who abide in the doctrine have the Father and the Son
- D. Guard against approving false teachers (10-11)
 1. Do not receive false teachers in the home (10)
 2. Do not give them an approving greeting (11)

Final Farewell: John hoped to see them personally (2 John 12-13)

Conclusion: Christians must maintain an equal emphasis on truth, love, and doctrinal purity. Laxity in any one results in danger.

Lesson 13: Serve Faithfully and Humbly (3 John 1-14)

Key Verse: "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers." (3 John 5)

Introduction: The apostle John, as an elder statesman, wrote to a member of a branch church, encouraging him to provide hospitality and help to travelling Christian workers. He repudiated rebellious, haughty leadership that refused such help, and he commended hospitable, humble leadership.

Salutation: John greeted his dear friend Gaius (3 John 1-4)

1. John loved Gaius in the truth (1)
2. John prayed for his prosperity (2)
3. John rejoiced in his truthful walk (3-4)

I. Faithfully Help Travelling Christian Workers (3 John 5-8)

- A. Be hospitable to travelling Christian workers (5)
- B. It is right to help with their expenses (6-8)
 1. Because they travel for Christ's name sake (6)
 2. Because they take no support from the Gentiles (7)
 3. Because we become their fellow workers (8)

II. Follow Humble, Hospitable Leadership (3 John 9-12)

- A. Do not follow Diotrephes' haughtiness (9-11)
 1. He refused apostolic authority (9-10)
 - a. He refused John's letter to the church (9)
 - b. He loved to have the preeminence (9)
 - c. He spoke maliciously against John (10)
 2. He opposed helping traveling Christian workers (11)
 - a. He was not hospitable himself
 - b. He forbade others to be hospitable
 - c. He put hospitable brothers out of the church
- B. Follow the example of hospitable Demetrius (12)
 1. He had a good testimony with Christian workers
 2. John personally recommended him

Final Farewell: John hoped to see them personally (13-14)

Conclusion: Christians should continue to support missionaries and to commend humility in church leadership.