

2 John

Date: Around 90-95 AD

(Next shortest book in Bible after 3 John, by just a few words., written to fit on one papyrus sheet)

Sent to church or group of Christians from John in Ephesus.

I. Introduction vv. 1-3

II. The importance of the truth vv. 4-11 [truth mentioned 5 times]

A. Practicing the truth vv. 4-6

B. Protecting the truth vv. 7-11

III. Conclusion vv. 12-13

Summary: Abiding in the truth is essential to maintaining brotherly love.

3 John

Date: Around 90-95 AD

(Is shortest book in Bible, written to fit on one papyrus sheet)

Sent to individual, Gaius (personal in nature), probably living in Roman province of Asia (west most province in Asia Minor); from John in Ephesus.

Conforms to the secular pattern of letter-writing in the 1st Century AD.

I. Introduction v. 1

II. Upholding the truth with love vv. 2-12 [truth mentioned 6 times]

A. Commendation of Gaius' love vv. 2-4

B. Encouragement to support those who proclaim the truth vv. 5-10

C. Exhortation to continue this support in Demetrius' case vv. 11-12

III. Conclusion vv. 13-14

Serves as a recommendation letter to Gaius about Demetrius.

Summary: Brotherly love is the product of abiding in the truth.

Little differences among manuscripts... no major difficulties... little doubt over determining the original text. Earliest quotations (in the writings of Polycarp, Papias, and Irenaeus) come from the province of Asia Minor.

"It is possible that in 3 John 9 there is an allusion to 2 John and, if so, then both letters went to individuals in the same church (one a loyal woman, the other a loyal man)."

"The language of 3 John suggests that it is in part a letter of commendation for Demetrius (3 John 12), who is apparently the courier of it along with 2 John (and perhaps 1 John too . . .)"

Third John and 2 John deal with two sides of the same issue, namely: the relationship between the truth and Christian love. In 2 John, the writer stressed the importance of the truth. In 3 John, he stressed the importance of love. Second John is more general in that it deals with ideas. Third John is more personal, and deals with examples, or specific cases.

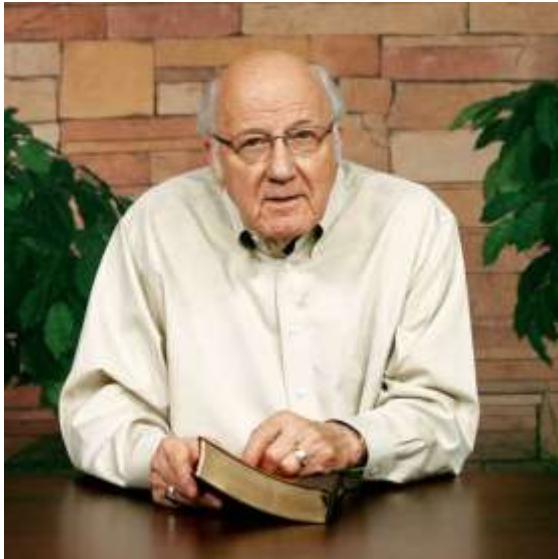
"This epistle presents one of the most vivid glimpses in the New Testament of a church in the first century."

Better Understanding John 3 Resources

Dr. Gene Getz – Application Bible

<https://bibleprinciples.org/>

About Gene: <https://bibleprinciples.org/about-gene/>



3 John; Principle #1; 3 Jn. 1-4; p. 1773

Wealth and Health: Though we are to pray for one another that our heavenly Father will meet our physical needs, we must not use this text to promote prosperity theology.

[Video](#)

<http://www2.bhpublishinggroup.com/QR/GetzBible/1459/>

3 John; Principle #2; 3 Jn. 5-12; p. 1774

Hospitality and Generosity: Those qualified believers who devote large amounts of time to ministry and have personal financial needs should be cared for by the church body.

[Video](#)

<http://www2.bhpublishinggroup.com/QR/GetzBible/1460/>

Constable's Expository (Bible Study) Notes, Web-based

Constable's Notes, authored by [Dr. Thomas L. Constable](#), provide commentary on all 66 books of the Bible in Web-based format. Dr. Constable taught at [Dallas Theological Seminary](#) for 45 years, and served as the Chairman of its Bible Exposition department for 13 years. He now spends most of his time upgrading these notes. These notes are intended to help you to understand the Bible better.

<https://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>

John 3...

Date and place of writing

The process of establishing a date for the writing of 3 John has been deductive as well. Probably John wrote this epistle about the same time he wrote 1 and 2 John, A.D. 90-95, and from Ephesus.

Characteristics

Third John is probably the most personal letter in the New Testament. Most of the epistles originally went, of course, to churches or groups of Christians. First and Second

John are both of this type. The Pastoral Epistles, while sent to specific individuals, namely, Timothy and Titus, were obviously written with a wide circulation in mind as well. The Epistle to Philemon also gives evidence that Paul intended its recipient to share it with the church that met in his house. Third John likewise has universal value, and the early Christians recognized that it would benefit the whole Christian church. However, the content of this letter is most personal.

"... 3 John shows independence from epistolary conventions found elsewhere in the NT (including 2 John), and conforms most closely to the secular pattern of letter-writing in the first century A.D. ... In 3 John this includes a greeting with a health-wish; and expression of joy at news of the addressee's welfare; the body of the letter, containing the promise of another epistle; and, at the close, greetings to and from mutual friends (cf. the papyri)." [\[5\]](#)

"It has all the charm of an occasional writing [a letter that was written to address a special situation] and shows how a Christian person in authority speaks to a friendly member of the laity." [\[6\]](#)

"The language of 3 John suggests that it is in part a letter of commendation for Demetrius (3 John 12), who is apparently the courier of it along with 2 John (and perhaps 1 John too ...)" [\[7\]](#)

"This epistle presents one of the most vivid glimpses in the New Testament of a church in the first century." [\[8\]](#)

Message

Third John and Second John deal with two sides of the same issue, namely, the relationship between the truth and Christian love. In 2 John the writer stressed the importance of the truth. In 3 John he stressed the importance of love. Second John is more general in that it deals more with ideas. Third John is more personal and deals more with examples or specific cases.

"In the Second Epistle He [*sic* he, John] condemns heresy because of departure from the truth and from the love of the truth. In the Third Epistle the apostle condemns [*sic*] divisions and schisms among God's people." [\[9\]](#)

I would summarize the message of this epistle as follows: Brotherly love is the product of abiding in the truth. John gave two concrete examples to clarify how Christian love, which is the product of abiding in the truth (walking in the light), behaves:

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