**The Epistle of 2nd John**

**A Clear Message**

1. *Live in Love and Walk in Truth (1-6)*
2. *Beware and Do Not Welcome Evildoers (7-11)*
3. *A Final Note (12-13)*

*In this letter to the Church (some scholars believe that “Lady” refers to the Church, and not necessarily a woman and family), John maintains his warning of deceivers who proclaim to be followers and teachers of message of Jesus. He still urges love between the believers (V. 3), but he adds that truth is important, too. This is a relationship with one another that will help to protect them from outside influences.*

**The Epistle of 3rd John**

**Advice and Farewell**

1. *To Gaius, a True Believer (1-8)*
2. *Denouncing Diotrephes, Applauding Demetrius (9-12)*
3. *Final Words (13-14)*

*In this personal letter, John applauds members and denounces others. He has apparently received news or experienced the conduct of one person who is disrupting the church; his words are almost like those of Paul in other epistles where he focuses on specific occurrences. He closes expressing his desire to see the church family in person.*

**Study Questions**

1. In his second letter, John warns about the deception of those who will go into the world to mislead the church—he refers again to the anti-Christ–how does the concept of love for one another relate to this concern in your opinion?
2. In his final letter, John is scolding the behavior of a member; who does Diotrephes remind you of in terms of a typical behavior in our church today?
3. What can we do in the contemporary church to strengthen ministries in order to avoid confusion and disruption?
4. What is it about love and identification with Christ that John stresses here and in his Gospel? What is the core message in your opinion?
5. What is the most important lesson you have learned in these two epistles?

**Notes**

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