**VI. 2 John**

*Key Theme* | Christians should not support those who are false teachers (2 John 7, 10-11).

* Difference in how we respond to false teachers that claim the name of Christ and ordinary non-Christians
* Our responsibility to ensure those we support in ministry are faithful to the truth
* Applying 2 John’s warning today

**VII. 3 John**

*Key Theme* | Christians should extend hospitality to those laboring for the sake of the Gospel (3 John 5-8 vs. 3 John 9-11).

* Diotrephes – loves to be first (v. 9)
* Gaius – loves “the brothers” (v. 6)
* Hospitality to Gospel workers = working together with them in the same mission (v. 8)

**VIII. Conclusion:** *What is true love?*

1 John = Instructions on true love

2 John = Warning against false love

3 John = Gaius, an example of true love

*Questions or comments? E-mail*

***Core Seminars—New Testament***

**Class 23: 1, 2, & 3 John:**

**The Love of the Kingdom**

*And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.*

*-1 John 3:23*

1. **Introduction** | *What is true love?*
2. **Background to John’s Epistles** | *1 John 1:1-3*

* Apostolic authority
* Date and audience

1. **Purpose of 1 John** | *1 John 5:13*

* The false teachers (2:18-19)…
  + - Claimed to be without sin (1:8)
    - Denied Jesus to be the Messiah in human flesh (2:22-23)
    - Denied Jesus’ atoning death (5:6)
    - Had no love for Christians (2:11)
    - Had no concern for holiness (3:6-8)

1. **Outline of 1 John**

Introduction: John Proclaims the Word of Life (1:1-4)

First Meditation on Assurance (1:5-2:14)

* Those who are in Christ walk in the light (1:5-7)
* Those who are in Christ are forgiven (1:8-2:2)
* Those who are in Christ obey his love command (2:3-11)
* Evidences of grace in John’s audience (2:12-14)

Warning Against Following the World (2:15-27)

* Do not love the world (2:15-17)
* Do not listen to the world’s message (2:18-27)

Second Meditation on Assurance (2:28-4:6)

* Those who are in Christ do what is right (2:28-3:10)
* Those who are in Christ love one another (3:11-23)
* Those who are in Christ have the Holy Spirit (3:24-4:6)

Exhortation to Love and Faith (4:7-5:12)

* Love like God loved you (4:7-5:4a)
* Have faith in the Christ who died (5:4b-12)

Concluding Remarks: Confidence in Approaching God (5:13-21)

1. **John’s Tests of Faith**

**A. Doctrinal Test | What is the content of our belief?**

*Key verses: 2:1-2, 2:22-23, 4:2-3, 4:15, 5:1*

* Importance of right doctrine
* Danger of wrong belief
* Doctrine’s effect on evangelism

**B. Moral Test | What is the quality of our obedience?**

*Key verses: 1:5-7, 2:3-7, 2:15-17, 3:6-10, 5:18*

* Stark teaching to convict our hearts
* *Not* teaching that “nice people are Christians”
* Do not love the world

**C. Social Test | What is the character of our love?**

*Key verses: 2:8-10, 3:11-18, 4:7-21*

* Loving Christians is an essential fruit of true faith
* Love in practical ways
* Love those who are difficult to love