

**Proof of Life: *How Walking in Christian Hospitality Battles Falsehood*
2 & 3 John**

**Christian Hospitality Battles Falsehood by Rejecting False Teachers
(2 John)**

- A) Centrality of the Local Church – Community of Believers (**vv.1-3**)
 - a. The Elect Lady
 - i. “Elect lady” – increased language of the church toward the conclusion of the writing of the New Testament (particularly Peter’s letters and John’s apocalyptic letter, Revelation)
 - ii. God’s possession in Christ – those in the truth (no church apart from true believers)
 - b. Marked by “walking in truth”
 - i. A persevering people of promise (promised eternal life)
 - ii. Association of churches – our partnerships must only be with like-minded churches
 - iii. Treasure the local church as we are part of the universal church
 - c. Evidenced by Grace, Mercy, and Peace
 - i. Sourced in God
 - ii. Realized through Truth and Love
- B) Community of Truth (**vv.4-6**)
 - a. Source of Joy (**v.4**)
 - i. Complete Joy (**1 John 1:4**)
 - ii. Gospel-centered fellowship
 - iii. True encouragement regards the Truth (commendation for walking in truth)
 - b. The New / Old Command on display
 - c. Ministry of Reminder
- C) Reminder of Spiritual Warfare – From Without (**vv.7-9**)
 - a. They often start within, but eventually they attack from without

- b. Similar (if not the same) false teachers in 1 John
- c. False teaching threatens the gospel work (**John 6:27-29**)
- d. Evidence of being lost – both teacher and listener
- e. Christ has won, but Satan persists (**1 John 4:1-4**)

- D) Reject False Teachers (**vv.10-11**)
 - a. The church is responsible to guard truth (each one, together)
 - b. Love your home and the church enough to drive out falsehood
 - c. Make no mistake, by welcoming false teaching you are a part of it
- E) Real Social Networking – Corporately (**vv.12-13**)
 - a. Face to Face fellowship is irreplaceable (deepens doctrine and life)
 - b. The aim is deepened joy (passion statement)
 - c. Church planting is the ultimate aim of our fellowship (in some way / in some place)

Christian Hospitality Battles Falsehood by Receiving Teachers of Truth (3 John)

- A) Centrality of the Local Church – Led by Godly Men (**vv.1-4**)
 - a. The Elder – **3 John 1**
 - i. From elder to faithful disciple (“Elder” was often used for apostles as well as local church leadership – at least shows a strong connection)
 - ii. Prayerful support
 - iii. Guarding the truth (noted that no position is associated with Gaius)
 - iv. Stewardship of the Congregation
 - b. Source of Joy
 - i. Hearing of others walking in truth (what gives you joy?)
 - ii. Bearing spiritual children (joy is in disciples living as disciples)

- iii. It is joy (in Christ) that is ultimately threatened by false teachers

B) Receive Truth Teachers (**vv.5-8**)

- a. Strangers, but not
 - i. Common faith
 - ii. Dependant on the Church
- b. Opportunities to extend Reach
 - i. Prayer support
 - ii. Financial support (direct support of Reach budget)

C) Reminder of Spiritual Warfare – From Within (**vv.9-12**)

- a. Church discipline for division (Diotrephes)
 - i. For protection
 - ii. For instruction
 - iii. For the Gospel (Diotrephes is in danger of proving unregenerate)
 - iv. Pursuant to joy-filled fellowship
- b. Church endorsement for Godly leadership (Demetrius)
 - i. Testimony of many
 - ii. Tested and proven
 - iii. Entrust

D) Real Social Networking – Personally (**vv.13-15**)

- a. Face to Face fellowship is irreplaceable (deepens friendships)
- b. Closest circle of friends must share our deepest convictions (not a common platform)

Christian Hospitality Battles Falsehood with a Joy-filled Fellowship of Lovers of Truth (What's common for the churches)

A) Members of UBC...

- a. We are to test the spirits as instructed in John's first letter
- b. We are to have a vibrant, unified doctrine
- c. We are to receive the lost as they are (nothing of any less than that here)

- d. We are to reject (together) false teaching in our midst – especially teaching that would deny that Jesus Christ is the only Savior available to this lost world and that denies that He is fully God and fully man (those who claim to know Him, but teach error)
- e. We are to be willing to discipline those who cause division in our midst to guard the truth and promote joy in the body of Christ (THERE IS NO JOY IN THE ABSENCE OF TRUTH)
- f. We are to receive truth-teachers, supporting the work of those in our fellowship who are faithful to teaching truth
- g. We are to begin by loving Truth (ministry of reminder)

B) Non-members who are Christians...

- a. You are (hopefully) part of these "sister" churches. You are to make sure you are in a church that values truth and is receptive to it, while willing to reject falsehood
- b. Be most hospitable to those who proclaim the truth – and learn to love the body of Christ where you serve (in truth and love)
- c. College student... This is good cause for you to plug-in (even join) a local church, that your joy in Christ would be deepened and you would better discern truth from error

C) Non-Christians...

- a. The gospel is in our text today...
- b. God is the creator of all and the only source of grace, mercy and peace
- c. Men are without hope apart from God. We are separated because we are sinner – going against God's way
- d. Jesus Christ is God and has come in the flesh. He is man and He is God. He died for sinners like you.
- e. Do you trust that Jesus Christ died in your place on the cross? Do you place your hope for eternal life in Him alone? Are you willing to turn from going after the world and follow Him, so that you are walking with Him and abiding in Him?