



Biblical "Postcards"

Both *2 John* and *3 John* are so short that it's hard to call them **BOOKS** of the Bible.

Since *2 John* and *3 John* are actually **LETTERS** with relatively few words, they're more like **POSTCARDS!**

The Sender & Recipients

FROM: John, "the Elder" (2 John 1 & 3 John 1)

TO:

- 2 John is a congregational postcard to a specific church.
...to the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth... (v.1)
- 3 John is a personal postcard to a specific Christian.
...to my dear friend, Gaius, whom I love in the truth... (v.1)

The General Message

Followers of Jesus walk in truth and love!

2 John 3-6, NIV (see also 3 John 3-4 & 6)

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. It has given me great joy to find some of your children WALKING IN THE TRUTH, just as the Father commanded us. And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you WALK IN LOVE.

The Specific Issue

How does walking in truth and love apply to opening the door of your home and putting out the welcome mat?

In the first century, travelling missionaries relied on local Christians for food and lodging.

So church people needed guidelines for showing the kind of hospitality that would advance the gospel!

2 John: Walk In Truth!

CLOSE Your Door To FALSE Teachers!

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Any one who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your home or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work. (vv.7-11, NIV)

3 John: Walk In Love!

OPEN Your Door To GENUINE Teachers!

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from pagans. We ought to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth. (vv. 5-8, NIV)

Modern Day Application *You can still be a missionary without travelling!*

What about people in cults who come knocking at your door?

2 John 10-11, NIV

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your home or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

1 John 2:6, ESV

...whoever says that he abides in him (Jesus) ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

What about people far from God who live next door?

Young John (whom Jesus nicknamed
"Son of Thunder"— Mk. 3:17) would have said:

Barbecue them!

...but the people there (a Samaritan village) did not welcome him (Jesus)...When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to destroy them?" (Luke 9:52-54)

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But John "The Elder" would say:

"Barbecue" WITH them!

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