

Only One: 2 John 1-3

July 19, 2020

Scriptures: 2 John 1-13

Bottom Line: The letters are written to churches to guide them as they work to live for the Kingdom in their unique culture.

How Do We Read the NT Letters?

We look for clear, concise teachings. We prefer sound bytes. But when we do this, we run the risk of missing the greater message that the author is trying to communicate to their audience. At worst, we'll come away with really bad theology.

We avoid this by learning about the background and context of the New Testament letters.

The Context of NT Letters

The letters were written from apostles and church elders to young Jesus communities to help them work through questions and issues that arose as they learned how to follow Jesus together.

The Context of 2 John

Who Wrote 2 John: The Apostle John or John the Elder

Who Was 2 John Written To: A home church network in Ephesus

Why Did He Write It: To address a division caused by a group who were denying that Jesus was divine and or that he had a real body.

Things to Think About for Next Week

What does it mean to love God and others?

How do we disagree with others in the Church?

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LISTENING

Check in with everyone, see how the week has been. Give each person your attention, engage with what they're saying. If you're having trouble talking about your week, here are some things to talk about

- What fears have you had this week?
- How did you overreact this week?
- How have you experienced God's goodness this week?
- What/who are you praying for this week?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the teaching? Where there any new ideas? What challenged you? Do you have any lingering questions?
2. What has been your approach to the letters in the New Testament? Do you look for life application? Do you look for original meaning? Something else?
3. What things have confused you in the past when you've read a new testament letter?
4. What does it mean to love God and others?
5. How do you disagree with someone else in the Church?

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