

# JOHN'S EPISTLES COMPARED

## FIRST JOHN

Is written to believers in general  
(the church)

Speaking to all believers

Calls the church to be loyal to  
the truth and love

Sound doctrine and love are  
what define a true believer

No personal reference

Truth and love are the tests to  
prove the validity of ones faith

## SECOND JOHN

Is written to a family  
(Elect lady and family)

Narrows it down to a family

Calls for families to be loyal to  
the truth and love

Truth and love are always related  
(Hospitality is not for those who  
are deviant to the truth)

Is sort of negative— who not to  
receive love

Sound doctrine is the essential for  
showing love

An anonymous personal reference to  
the Elect lady and her children, plus  
her sister and her children

The elect lady has allowed a false  
teacher into her home. Her act of  
love was outside of the truth.

## THIRD JOHN

Is written to an individual  
(Gaius)

Narrows it down to an individual

Calls for individuals to be loyal  
to the truth and love

Truth and love are always related  
(Hospitality is open to all who  
are in the truth)

Is sort of positive— who to receive  
love

Where someone is sound in truth, love  
is to be shown and not withheld

Personal

Gaius is a good example of truth  
and love. Diotrephes refuses  
hospitality.

- The theme in all three epistles is the same, namely, truth (doctrine) and love (moral).
- Together (2-3 John) we get insight into how to deal with those who say they represent Christ.