

A POSTCARD FROM A PASTOR 1.

2 John

Introduction. _____

Note three reasons why this book should be read, preached and teach through this small book:

1. First, this epistle incorporates both truth and love.
2. Secondly, this epistle informs us that truth and love, should always lead to obedience (4-9).
3. Thirdly, this epistle includes help in how respond to false teachers (Verses 10-11).

Note this exegesis of this letter in the following ways:

I. FIRST, NOTICE THE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, WHICH BRINGS A WORD OF COMMENDATION (John 1-4).

A. First, he commends the lady as a person (Verse 1a)

B. Secondly, he commends her as a participant (Verses 1b-3).

1. First, as a participant in the truth of the gospel (Verse 1b).
2. Secondly, as a participant in the thrust of the gospel (2-3).

2.

C. Thirdly, he commends her as a parent (Verse 4).

II. SECONDLY, NOTE THE BEHAVIOR OF THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, WHICH BRINGS A WORD OF COMMAND (Verses 5-6).

A. First, notice how Christian love is demanded (Verse 3).

B. Secondly, note how Christian love is defined (Verse 6).

C. Thirdly, consider how Christian love is distinctive (Verse 7c) “. . . *ye should walk in it.*”

1. First, this distinctiveness is exposed in love vertically (Matthew 22:37-38).

2. Secondly, this distinctiveness is expressed in love horizontally. (Matthew 22:39-40).

HOW?

a. We need to accept the fact that love is not an option (John 13:35).

b. We need to acknowledge the fact that love is not an opinion (2 John 6).

III. THIRDLY, CONSIDER THE BOUNDS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, WHICH BRINGS A WORD OF CAUTION (John 7-11).

3.

A. First, notice the danger of the deceiver (Verses 7-8).

1. First, he shows how we can recognize them (Verse 7).

a. First, note how they are deceptive (Verse 7a).

b. Secondly, notice how they are disciple makers (Verse 7b).

c. Thirdly, consider how they are deniers (Verse 7c).

d. Fourthly, notice how they are demonic.

e. Fifthly, observe how they are disoriented (Verse 9a) “... *abideth not in the doctrine* ...”

f. Sixthly, see these false teachers are doomed (9ab) “... *hath not God.*”

2. Secondly, he shares how we should regard them (Verse 8).

a. First, keep yourselves so that you will not lose your forward progress in maturity (Verse 8a).

b. Secondly, keep yourselves that you will not lose a full reward (Verse 8b).

B. Secondly, note the danger to the doctrine (Verse 9a).

C. Thirdly, consider the danger at the door (Verses 10-11).

4.

Just how do we keep an arm's length?

1. First, we do it by keeping our eyes opened (Verse 8a) “*Look to yourselves . . .*”

2. Secondly, we do it by keeping our doors closed (Verse 10a).

3. Thirdly, we do it by keeping our wallets closed (10c-11).

4. Fourthly, we do it by keeping our Bibles operative.

IV. **FOURTHLY, LOOK AT THE _____ OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, WHICH BRINGS SOME WORDS OF _____ (John 12-13).**

A. First, note what John is _____ to do in the future (Verse 12).

B. Secondly, notice what John has _____ to his friends (Verse 13).

CONCLUSION:

1. We must _____ the truth of God's Word to become a way of life!

2. We must _____ the truth of God's Word, but never separate it from _____ the love of Christ

3. We must _____ that even godly Christians are never immune to spiritual danger.

4. We must never _____ our thinking to the point of believing everyone who speaks in the name of Christ, belongs to Christ.

5. Fifthly, we must understand that when error is _____, discerning love must be kept within its bounds.