

We Greet Fellow Believers
2 John 1:9-13
Series: Christian Hospitality

1. Introduction –

- a. John the revelator’s concern in this epistle is love first predicated on truth.
 - b. He would warn us that not everyone that proclaims the name of Jesus is truly a disciple and therefore, we must be careful who we entreat as a fellow believer.
 - i. We remember that confession is cheap and that a true disciple is known by his love for:
 1. God in obedience to His word
 2. For the church of God, that is, our fellow believers.
 - c. So far, we have discussed Christian hospitality in the following manner:
 - i. The Basis of Christian Hospitality (1–3)
 1. Truth predicated in love
 - ii. The Behavior of Christian Hospitality (4–6)
 1. Walk in obedience (all of God’s word)
 2. Walk in love toward one another
 - d. Today we will close with:
 - i. The Bounds of Christian Hospitality (7–11)
 1. Watch out for deceivers
 2. Walk circumspectly—a full reward awaits.
 - ii. The Blessings of Christian Hospitality (12,13)
2. Verse 9 – Going ahead of Scripture – Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.
- a. To go ahead means to represent Christ in ways that are inconsistent and irreconcilable with established apostolic teaching; that is contra orthodoxy.
 - i. This is to present something different, faithlessly novel, and supplanting what was former, established, and valid.
 - ii. **Matthew 28:20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- b. Notice that this person—by virtue of their departure from orthodoxy—does not have God.
 - c. Compare this with, “Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.
 - i. A true disciple follows his Lord.
 - ii. **John 15:14** You are my friends if you do what I command you.
3. Verse 10 – Uncommon Doctrine – If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,
- a. John is not thinking about non-believers. We are not to shun non-Christians.
 - b. He is concerned with us accepting someone whom calls himself a Christian and yet whose doctrine is abhorrent and heretical.
 - i. We are not to receive that person – that is treat him as a brother and consider him as such.
 - ii. To receive someone, in this context, is to offer the hand of fellowship.
 - iii. We are not to aid and abet fraudulent deceivers.
 - c. By receiving them we:
 - i. Give them entrance to the church and unsuspecting Christians
 - ii. We do not endorse, support, encourage, entreat or otherwise aid the teaching of the false: Jehovah’s witnesses, Mormons, Christian heretics.
 - iii. Acts 16:16-18 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. (17) She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." (18) And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.
 - d. Do not receive them into your house – home churches
 - e. Do not greet them – not a casual hello, but the right hand of fellowship.
4. Verse 11 – Do Not be a Facilitator – for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

- a. To greet them is to legitimize their falseness.
5. Verse 12 – Love’s Face to Face –Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.
 - a. Here we begin the blessings of Christian Hospitality
 - b. Notice the love and care; the longing to see one another.
 - c. Notice that this face-to-face meeting would complete the joy of the Apostle.
 - d. This can only be achieved while entreating true believers.
 6. Verse 13 – Mutual Love – The children of your elect sister greet you.
 - a. Notice that because they are bound together in Christ, other believers send their greetings.
 7. Benediction –
 - a. **Colossians 3:16-17** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.