



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 179 - Should We Welcome Them or Not?

(2 and 3 John)

2 John

John wrote his second epistle (letter) to warn a congregation about false teachers, probably the Gnostics. These false teachers denied the apostles' teaching that Jesus was both God and man—the Savior of the world. He commands the church neither to welcome these false teachers into their midst nor to have anything to do with them.

- What impression would it give your members and guests if your congregation welcomed a Jewish rabbi or Muslim imam in your church and then gave permission to preach in your pulpit?
- Under what circumstances would John command our congregation to close our pulpit to pastors or priests from other Christian denominations?
- What does it mean to have nothing to do with a false teacher?
- Why might your pastor think it necessary to speak bluntly about the teachings of a popular television evangelist?

3 John

The apostle wrote his third epistle to an individual named Gaius. This individual was either a leader in his congregation or someone who gave hospitality to missionaries who traveled from place to place sharing the Gospel.

- Why is it significant that John says about these missionaries, "They have gone out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles"?
- Describe some of the circumstances in which you might have guest preachers at your church.
- How can you make them feel welcome?

John wrote this letter to encourage Gaius not to be intimidated by Diotrephes, who was refusing to accept the authority of John and the other apostles and, consequently, slamming the door in the face of these missionaries.

- According to John, why is Diotrephes refusing to welcome these missionaries?
- What should a congregation do if its pastor refuses to recognize the apostles' authority and teaches something of his own design?
- What should you do if both the pastor and the congregational leaders refuse to follow Scripture's sound teachings?