

Truth and Love Applied 2 & 3 John

Letter to a Church 2 John

I. Introduction – 1-3

1. Author – identified only as “The Elder” - 1
John does not identify in Gospel or Epistles
Last of 12 apostles and an elder in the church
Perhaps known by this title
Content, style fit well with the Apostle John
He speaks of “Truth” & “Love”
He speaks also about an “antichrist” - 7
2. Recipient – “Elect Lady & her Children” - 1
Either a local church or an actual woman
If a woman, she is well known by the church
John speaks of her as chosen in the Lord
John loves her as do all who know the truth
Closing greeting points to a local assembly – 13
“Children of your elect sister greet you”
“Elect sister” would refer to a sister church
“Children” refers to the members of the assembly
If true we have principles of 1 John applied
Both to an assembly & to an individual
To an assembly meeting in a house – 2 John
To an individual responding to his assembly – 3 John
3. Theme – Fellowship of “Truth & Love” - 2
Fellowship in 1 John is based on truth & love
2nd epistle helps to make application of this
John writes “for the truth’s sake”
Defender of the truth, for it is God’s truth
God’s truth is within us and it is eternal
4. Greeting – Grace, mercy and peace - 3
These come from the Father & Jesus Christ
God is source of all grace, mercy & peace
God has graciously revealed His truth to us
Fellowship is now based upon truth & love
Love is based on truth & truth produces **love**

II. Walk in Truth and Love – 4-6

1. Word of Encouragement – 4
John rejoices that they are walking in truth
They are committed to obeying God’s truth
Walking implies continuance & consistency
2. Word of Exhortation – 5
Beseeches her to obey the command “to love”
Word love here is “agape” God’s kind of love
3. Word of Explanation – 6
Love for Christ is seen in obedience
He has commanded us to love one another

III. Truth and Love Applied – 7-11

1. Problem – Some are deceivers – 7
Hospitality to strangers is expression of love
In that day lodging found in private homes

- If an assembly don’t let them speak or teach
Don’t encourage or support them
John warns of deceivers who may play on love
They are antichrist – do not confess Christ
2. Prompting – Don’t be taken in – 8
Be alert, discerning so not taken in by error
Don’t lose what you gained from teaching
Don’t jeopardize your reward in Christ
 3. Proof – The test focuses on Christ – 9
To err on doctrine of Christ is not of God
God’s truth found in Person & Work of Christ
Who He is and what He came to accomplish
Those who err on doctrine of Christ are false
 4. Practical Application – 10-11
Love must be in accordance with truth
If one comes who errs in doctrine of Christ
Do not receive him – offer your hospitality
Do not bid him God’s speed – encourage, support
Don’t encourage or assist spread of evil
Don’t link up with one who promotes error
Cannot love Christ and support those against **Him**

IV. Closing – 12-13

1. John’s desire to minister to her – 12
He could write longer letter but not for now
His desire is to come, visit and talk together
He would enjoy a face to face time together
2. Others join in sending greetings – 13
“Children of elect sister”
May suggest he is writing to a church
Sending greetings from another assembly
Recipient may not be clear, the message is
Truth & love must be joined & applied – Eph 4:15