



2 Jn, Love and Truth

December 8

REVIEW: [The Letters of John](#)

CONTEXT: In this letter John writes to “the elect lady and her children.” This is probably a poetic or code reference to a church or a group of churches, possibly near Ephesus where John spent his latter days. A key theme is the co-existence of love and truth in light of Christian living and false-teachers.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (1 Jn 4:7–10)

- What is important to understand about 1 John?
- What faulty ideas of love exist?
- What is true love?
- Describe God’s general and special love?
- Why will love always be the mark of a believer?

READ: 2 John

QUESTIONS:

Introduction

1. Vv. 1–2- what, or who, is the truth referred to?
2. **V. 3- How do we balance truth and love? Can you share a time when this was unbalanced? Can you share a time where you saw this balance well?**

Joy and Request

3. Why should seeing obedience in other Christians cause us to rejoice?
4. What does “just as we were commanded by the Father” refer to?
5. *Vv. 5- Though some were walking in the truth it appears this was not universal.* If we are not in the truth, or walking according to it, why would we find it difficult to love our brothers and sisters?
6. *V. 5- A reference to a command for believers to love one another, Jn 13:34–35 (or possibly the Great Commandment).*
7. **V. 6- Why is true love an action and not just a feeling?**

Concern

8. *Truth, the basis of love, is at stake because of threats to the Church, for if truth is twisted how will they be able to walk according to it and thereby love by fulfilling God’s commands?*
9. *V. 7- As with last week, probably a reference to Docetism (“to appear”), an early heresy that Jesus only appeared to have been a man but was really a spirit.*
10. **Why is the divinity and manhood of Jesus essential to our faith?**
11. *V. 7b- Again, anti-Christ.* How are such people against Christ and of the Devil? **What lie did Satan breathe back in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:1)?**
12. **What heresies exist about Jesus today? What harm do they produce?**
13. *V. 8- Watchful- to see with the mind’s eyes.* What does it mean to be watchful of error? Why does John urge this? **How can we be watchful today?**

Warning

14. *V. 9-* What is this verse saying? **How is it interesting that many people invoke “God” when speaking error?** Why should we diligently seek to remain in the truth?
15. *V. 10- In the ancient world, offering hospitality was a societal obligation, particularly if you were a Christian to travelling missionaries.* **In light of this, how shocking is this verse? Yet why is offering hospitality to false-teacher unloving?**
16. **V. 11- How can false-association be harmful to our Christian witness?**

Ending

17. **V. 12-Writing, etc, can be helpful forms of communication between Christians—what is better and why?**
18. **(Joy- “grace realized”). How does fellowship make our joy complete?**
19. **How might you summarize 2 John’s message in your own words?**

NEXT TIME: December 15, Rev 6- The Seven Seals