

**I. Greetings from the Elder to the Chosen Lady. v. 1-3**

**A. Introduction to II John.**

1. II and III John are the best examples in the New Testament of a typical letter in the ancient world.
2. What is the purpose of II John?
3. Why study II John?

**B. It is widely agreed that the author (*The Elder*) is the Apostle John. v. 1a**

**C. Who is the chosen lady and who are her children? v. 1b**

1. Some suggest John wrote to a prominent Christian woman who had many kids.
2. Probably the *Elect Lady* is a personification of a local church with her children being her members. Eph. 5:22f Rev. 20:2,9 21:9 II Co. 11:2 I Pe. 5:13

**D. Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from the Father and the Son. Jo. 14:27**

**E. John's greeting contains a lot of theology.**

**F. The great themes of the epistle are introduced: truth and love. v. 1b, 2, 3b**

1. Those who know the truth love one another. v. 1b
2. The truth indwells us forever. v. 2 John 14:17
3. Grace, mercy, and peace flourish where truth and love prevail. v. 3
4. Both truth and love come from God. v. 3b
5. Belief in the truth and love for the brethren are signs of the new birth. I Jo. 5:1 4:7
6. Truth is the foundation of all genuine Christian fellowship (love).
7. When love is absent, truth has not yet been received. I John 4:8 Eph. 4:15
8. There is not tension, but perfect harmony, between truth and love.

**II. Walk in truth and love. v. 4-6**

**A. John rejoices that some of the Lady's children are walking in truth. v. 4**

1. Does John imply some children are not walking in truth? I Jo. 2:19
2. John again affirms there is such a thing as absolute truth. II Pet. 1:16-17
3. What does it mean to walk in truth? I Jo. 1:6-7 2:6 3:23

**B. Love one another. v. 5 John 13:34 15:12,17**

1. Why does John repeat this commandment so many times? I Jo. 2:28 3:11,23 4:7,21
2. What kind of love is John describing? Mt. 7:12 John 15:13
3. How does the truth of the gospel compel us to love one another? 4:10-11 Eph. 4:32
4. Are all of these repeated exhortations to love having an impact in your life?
5. Some who claim to be staunch defenders of truth fall short in love

**C. Love produces obedience to God's commandments. v. 6 John 14:15 15:14,12,10  
Mark 12:28-31 Rom. 13:9-10 Ps. 119:159 I Jo. 5:2-3**

**D. What should you do if your love is lacking? I John 4:19 Gal. 2:20 Ro. 8:31-39**

### III. Do not walk with those who deny the truth. v. 7-11 I Jo. 2:22-24

- A. False teachers are trying to deceive you. v. 7a Mark 13:22
  - 1. They have gone out into the world as counterfeit missionaries. v. 7a III John 1:7
  - 2. There are many such deceivers in the world today.
  - 3. Test those who claim to represent God. I Jo. 4:1
  
- B. They can be identified by their denial of the truth about Christ. v. 7b I Jo. 2:22f 4:1-3
  - 1. These false teachers denied the Incarnation: God the Son became man. John 1:1f Heb. 4:15 Col. 1:15f 2:9 I Pet. 3:18 1:18-19
  - 2. False teachers today deny Christ.
  - 3. What is the harm of denying the truth about Christ? I Jo. 1:7 2:2 4:10 I Co. 15:1f
  - 4. Those who distort the biblical doctrine of Christ are antichrist. I Jo. 2:18,22 4:3
  
- C. Watch out for them, lest you come to ruin. v. 8
  - 1. Who has accomplished (worked) what? v. 8a Gal. 4:11,19 I Cor. 3:10f John 3:21
  - 2. What reward is at risk? Mt. 25:23f Js. 5:4 Rev. 22:12 I Jo. 2:19
  - 3. The point is that these spiritual wolves are exceedingly dangerous.
  
- D. Those who go beyond the apostolic teaching of Christ are cut off from God. v. 9
  - 1. Often heresy puts itself forward as progressive thinking. Acts 17:28
  - 2. Even “evangelicals” can be guilty of going too far. Deut. 29:29
  - 3. Rather than always seeking some new doctrine, we should dwell on the central truths concerning Christ. I Jo. 2:24 II Tim. 1:13-14
  - 4. There is no relationship with God apart from a true knowledge of Christ. v. 8b Jo. 14:6-10 I Tim. 2:5
  
- E. Do not give aid or comfort to these heretics. v. 10-11
  - 1. What situation was John describing? v. 10a III Jo. 1:5f Lu. 10:1f He. 13:2
  - 2. Don’t offer your hospitality to these evil wolves.
  - 3. How does this principle apply to us? I Cor. 5:5-7
    - a. We cannot have spiritual fellowship with those who are not of the truth.
    - b. Be cautious in dealing with outsiders.
    - c. There is a difference between being taken in by error and promoting error.
    - d. Does this mean we shouldn’t talk to cult members who come to the door?
    - e. John is not telling us to withdraw from those with whom we disagree on non-essentials.

### IV. Conclusion. v. 12-13

#### Discussion questions

1. To whom is II John written?
2. How would you answer someone who claims you have to choose between truth and love?
3. Why does John repeat the commandment to love so many times?
4. Describe the love we should show to one another.
5. How can you recognize a deceiver?
6. What must one believe concerning Jesus Christ?
7. Give examples of modern deceivers.
8. Why is novel doctrine dangerous?
9. How should you treat someone who is promoting false teaching?