

2 John

Letter could be to one lady and shared Letter could be to a local church

Letter probably to a lady where there was a house church meeting in her home.

- clear desire to see one another
- clear written to those who believe

2 John 1 "The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another."

"And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. 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.

Walk in The Light

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. 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. The children of your elect sister greet you."

1. Clear about the Truth

- word used 4 times in 3 verses
- what they hold in common, connecting them
 - 'whom I love in truth'
 - not just me, 'all who know the truth'
 - 'truth abides in us, with us forever'
- a) God's Word is Truth John 17:17
- b) Jesus is the Truth John 14:6
- c) Spirit of Truth John 14:16-17

- we have encountered God's grace, mercy and peace from God through Jesus – know truth & love.

2. Important to Walk in Love & Truth

- brings great Joy to see children choosing this
- a) clear it is a command from God
 - not new or never heard Love one another
 - encompasses more than words or ideas, walk in this love you have experienced
 - practice it towards others

b) clear what this looks like

- 1 John 5:1-3 "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."
 - 'teaching them to obey'

c) clear about concerns

- there are deceivers out there, denying the work of Christ & salvation by faith
 - anti-Christs Greek prefix instead of or against
 - deny Christs claim & authority
 - offer substitute salvation
- need to be on guard
 - watch, possible to lose something here

Don't Miss the implications

- incredible strength and protection in community
 - Loving God & loving others
 - serving and practicing the "one anothers"
 - gifts working to ground & grow the body
 - accountable
 - worship together aligning ourselves
- * Walking in truth and love, obeying the commands of our Father will be life lived in community

3. Remember to Abide

- a) important to abide in God's word
 - not information we apply independently
- b) growth in understanding & practice important
 - abiding in teaching, reminded, active
- c) don't embrace those who deny
 - don't extend the hospitality, fellowship, etc.
 - don't spend time entertaining the deception
 - expose their message to the truth

So What?

- 1. We Share a truth and relationship
 - God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
 - all adopted into family same way
- 2. Commanded to walk in this truth
 - clear command authority is His
 - clear we encounter in Him, evidence it outward
 - clear there will be those who want to deceive
- 3. Abide