

Living In Truth and Love 2 John

Intro: 2 John is another *little book* in God’s Word with a *big message*. Believers are *commanded to pursue love and to walk in the truth* (vv. 4-6) and *warned to exercise discernment and not invest in the work of heretical false teachers by showing them hospitality* (vv. 7-11). **Put briefly, “Warning: Do not help/house false teachers.”**

I. Introduction and Greeting 1-3

- A. Author: “the elder,” or “old man”; *John, the apostle* (v. 1a)
- B. Recipient: “the chosen lady” (v. 1b)
- C. Reason for writing: “for the sake of the truth” (v. 2)
- D. John’s greeting: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and from Jesus Christ the Son of the Father, in truth and love (v. 3)



Letter of 2

John

II. The Command to Practice Love and to Walk in Truth (vv. 4-6)

- A. Commendation for Practicing the Truth (v. 4)
- B. Commandment to Pursue Love and to Walk in Truth (vv. 5-6; **cf. John 13:34-35**)

III. The Caution to Protect the Truth of Jesus’ Divine Nature (vv. 7-11)

- A. Recognizing false teachers: they reject Christ’s Deity (vv. 7-9)
 - 1. They *deny* Jesus Christ’s incarnation—**His coming in flesh** (v. 7; **cf. John 1:1, 14**)
 - 2. They *claim* advanced knowledge (*gnosis*), **i.e., superior revelation** (v. 9a)
- B. Refusing false teachers: Do not support or greet them (vv. 10-11)

IV. Final Greetings (12-13)

Applications

1. **If we say that we love God**, then we will spend time with Him daily (*in Word & in Prayer*)!
2. **If we say that we love God**, then we will walk in the truth—live by the Holy Spirit’s power!
3. **If we say that we love God**, then we will love one another (John 13:34-35; cf. 1 Cor 13:1-13)!