

## A LOOK AT THE BOOK 2 JOHN

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### AUTHOR AND DATE

There are no clear indications as to when the letter was written, or by whom.

He calls himself "the elder" which probably refers to his age at the time of writing.

Tradition attributes the letter to the apostle John.

Similarity of grammatical style seems to support that conclusion.

The date is not certain.

It was a time characterized by many deceivers, but that could describe most any time in the development of the early church.

It is normally dated about A.D. 90.

### BACKGROUND

The letter seems to indicate that the "antichrists" expected in 1 John 4 have arrived.

John writes to an unidentified woman, and to the church that meets in her home, to warn them to have nothing to do with these false teachers.

### PURPOSE AND THEME

John wants us to reject the false teachers and to have no relationship with them, lest we be participants in their evil deeds.

John expands his teaching concerning fellowship to warn us of the risk of receiving such false teachers.

1 John teaches that the basis of true fellowship is similarity.

2 and 3 John demonstrate that true fellowship requires love and truth.

The emphasis of 2 John is truth.

While fellowship is the result of love for one another, truth requires that it exclude those who do not walk in truth.

Therefore, we must have nothing to do with these false teachers.

## 2 JOHN

### WALKING IN TRUTH AND LOVE

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INITIAL GREETING 1-3	EXHORTATION TO WALK IN TRUTH 4-11		FINAL GREETING 12-13
	By demonstrating love 4-6	By excluding false teachers 7-11	
Author and recipient 1-2	Their previous example 4	Message of the false teachers 7	Desire to see them 12
Greeting 3	Their previous command 5-6	Danger of the false teachers 8-9	Greetings from their brethren 13
		Exclusion of the false teachers 10-11	