

**A LOOK AT THE BOOK  
2 JOHN  
WALKING IN TRUTH AND LOVE**

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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.

## **ORGANIZATION**

The body of the letter explains what it means to walk in truth.

There are two main exhortations that logically accompany a walk in the truth.

To love one another (4-6)

To exclude from their fellowship those who do not follow the truth (7-11).

The rest of the letter is personal or formal, as would be expected in a letter.

## **INITIAL GREETING 1-3**

### **AUTHOR AND RECIPIENT 1-2**

The initial greeting presents the author and recipient of the letter.

The description of the recipient gives orientation as to the emphasis of the letter.

John loves her in the truth.

In fact, a common commitment to the truth will produce mutual love between all those who accept it.

### **GREETING 3**

The formal greeting likewise relates the reception of grace, mercy and peace from God to the possession of truth and love.

They work together in true fellowship, either on the human or supernatural level.

## **EXHORTATION TO WALK IN TRUTH 4-11**

The body of the letter continues the same emphasis on the relationship between love and truth.

### **BY DEMONSTRATING LOVE 4-6**

John first exhorts us to demonstrate our walk in truth by walking in love.

#### **Their previous example 4**

The lifestyle of her children already demonstrates that they walk in truth.

John rejoices because of that evidence.

He is not satisfied with what has already occurred; he wants to see additional progress.

#### **Their previous command 5-6**

The reciprocal nature of love and walking in obedience is seen in John's exhortation to love one another.

Love will cause us to obey God's commands, which include the command to love one another.

Thus those who walk in truth will love one another.

#### **BY EXCLUDING FALSE TEACHERS 7-11**

Having said that, John warns us that true love and fellowship are based on truth and must therefore exclude people who do not walk in truth.

John applies this principle specifically to those who deny the Person and work of Jesus.

#### **Message of the false teachers 7**

They deny that Jesus is God's anointed one in the flesh.

They don't acknowledge that Jesus is  
"Christ (the Anointed One) come in flesh."

#### **Danger of the false teachers 8-9**

If we follow such false teaching, we demonstrate that we don't have God in our lives.

#### **Exclusion of the false teachers 10-11**

Therefore, these false teachers should be excluded.

We should not welcome them into our homes, lest by identifying with them we should be identified with their teaching and become co-workers with them in their deeds.

#### **FINAL GREETING 12-13**

#### **DESIRE TO SEE THEM 12**

John concludes his letter by expressing his desire to say more, but not by letter.

He would rather talk to them face to face.

**GREETINGS FROM THEIR BRETHREN 13**

He closes with a greeting from those with him.