



Truth Matters So Long for the Truth! Part 2

Lesson 2 • The Message of 2 John

Truth or Consequences

- Truth has become **MEANINGLESS** for our culture, many churches, and even some professing Christians.

*The pressure to **compromise the truth of the Gospel** has never been greater in our culture but not in church history overall.*

*The pressure to **let love determine what is truth** is greater than ever.*

- But truth **MATTERS**, so long for the Truth of the Gospel and make it a priority in our life and local church!

The Message of 2 John

1. Truth Matters to God's ELECT PEOPLE Who Long for the Truth.

- Truth mattered to the **ELDER LEADER** who wrote this little letter.

Who is the Elder?

- 1) The **APOSTLE** John rather than some other unknown person.
- 2) One whose **AGE** made him the last living apostle.
- 3) One who had a close **ASSOCIATION** with those he was writing.
- 4) One whose **AUTHORITY** was *widely recognized* and *highly respected*.

- Truth mattered to the **ELECT LADY** and her children who received this little letter.

Who Is the Elect Lady and Her Children?

- 1) A **PERSONIFICATION** rather than an actual woman.
- 2) A **PICTURE** of a local church and the members who make up the church.
- 3) A way to **PLACE** the truth of this letter in the context of loving relationships and sovereign grace.

Why Is John Picturing a Local Church as a "Lady and Her Children"?

Because the **moral, relational, and doctrinal purity and unity** of a local church is pictured as...

- A **betrothed virgin**. 2Corinthians 11:2-4
- A **beloved wife**. Ephesians 5:25-27
- The **household of God**. 1Timothy 3:15-16

The truth of Christianity is best lived out in the context of loving, obedient relationships in a local church under the loving headship of the sovereign Master of the household, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Why Is John Picturing the Local Church as an "Elect Lady"?

Because the **moral, relational, and doctrinal purity and unity** of a local church is secured by God's sovereign grace as...

- The **elect/chosen people of God**. 1Peter 5:13; 2:9; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 3:12; 2Thessalonians 2:13; 2Timothy 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1Corinthians 1:26-31
- An **elect lady and her children**. 2John 1, 13

The doctrinal, relational, and moral security, purity, and unity of local churches and their members are found in God's electing love and sovereign grace, not the popular culture or political correctness or personal opinion.



► Truth matters to **US** as God's elect people: *The truth of the Gospel is the measure of authentic Christianity, authentic churches, and authentic Christians.*

- 1) Truth matters to **CHURCH LEADERS** called by God to preach and teach the Truth of His gospel! *1 John 4:5-6*
- 2) Truth matters to **LOCAL CHURCHES** filled with God's elect people in whom the Truth abides forever! *2 John 1-2; 1 John 2:18-25*

The TRUTH MATTERS as the MEASURE of AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY, CHURCHES, and CHRISTIANS			
1 John	Written in General to Churches and Christians	The Truth Measures <i>Authentic Christianity</i> .	<i>Principles for the Universal Church</i> No Single Church or Specific Person
2 John	Written to a Local Church	The Truth Measures <i>Authentic Churches</i>	<i>Personification of a Local Church</i> The Elect Lady and Her Children
3 John	Written to an Individual Christian	The Truth Measures <i>Authentic Christians</i> .	<i>People in a Local Church</i> Gaius and Demetrius versus Diotrophes

2. Truth Matters in a World of **LIES AND LIARS.**

► The lies of false **TEACHING**: *The Fourfold Test in the Epistles of John*

The DESTRUCTIVE CONTENT and CONSEQUENCES of FALSE TEACHING		
Fails the DOCTRINAL Test	Does not walk in the TRUTH of the gospel.	Instead DISTORTS & DENIES
Fails the RELATIONAL Test	Does not walk in LOVE for God and one another.	Instead DIVIDES & DECEIVES
Fails the MORAL Test	Does not walk in OBEDIENCE to God's commandments.	Instead DEFIES & DEFILES
Fails the CHRONOLOGICAL Test	Does not ABIDE in CHRIST and HIS GOSPEL .	Instead DEPARTS & DEFECTS

► The liars who are false **TEACHERS** *1John 4:1; 2 John 7; Jude 17-19*

When False Teachers (Apostates) Fall Away from the Truth, They Either...

- 1) **LEAVE** true churches and cause division. *1John 2:19*

Sometimes they leave the faith but don't leave the church! Romans 16:17; 2Thessalonians 3:14; Titus 3:10

- 2) **ENTER** true churches (and homes) and cause deception. *2 John 10; Jude 4, 12-13*

But we are to still deal with lies and liars "in truth and love"...

"And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh." Jude 22-23

"If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds." 2 John 10-11

Big Idea	The Message of 2 John: Truth Matters in a World of Lies!			
	LONG for the TRUTH and MAKE the TRUTH a PRIORITY in ALL of LIFE!			
Lesson	LOVE by the Truth! 1-3	LIVE in the Truth! 4-6	LOOK for the Truth! 7-11	LEARN the Truth! 12-13
Focus	PROVISION of the Truth	PURPOSE of the Truth	PROTECTION of the Truth	PURSUIT of the Truth