



NYKK

SERIES ON 1-3 JOHN

2 John

¹The elder: To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth – and not only I, but also all who know the truth – ²because of the truth that remains in us and will be with us forever. ³Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Who is this “elect lady and her children”?

While the addressees are referred to as ‘the chosen lady and her children’ in verse 1 and the elder says ‘it has given me great joy to find some of your [singular] children walking in the truth’ in verse 4, in the rest of the letter (vv. 6, 8, 10, 12) he addresses all his readers in the second person plural (‘you’), suggesting that ‘the chosen lady and her children’ is another way of addressing all members of a local church.

Colin G. Kruse, *The Letters of John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos, 2000), 204.

2 John

⁴I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, in keeping with a command we have received from the Father. ⁵So now I ask you, dear lady – not as if I were writing you a new command, but one we have had from the beginning – that we love one another. ⁶This is love: that we walk according to his commands. This is the command as you have heard it from the beginning: that you walk in love.

Truth shapes our love

2 John

⁷Many deceivers have gone out into the world; they do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸Watch yourselves so that you don't lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward. ⁹Anyone who does not remain in Christ's teaching but goes beyond it does not have God. The one who remains in that teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your home, and do not greet him; ¹¹for the one who greets him shares in his evil works.

Truth requires discernment

3 John

¹The elder: To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.²Dear friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way and are in good health, just as your whole life is going well. ³For I was very glad when fellow believers came and testified to your fidelity to the truth – how you are walking in truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

Truth and love are lived out in faithfulness

3 John

⁵Dear friend, you are acting faithfully in whatever you do for the brothers and sisters, especially when they are strangers. ⁶They have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God, ⁷since they set out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from pagans. ⁸Therefore, we ought to support such people so that we can be coworkers with the truth.

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⁹I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have first place among them, does not receive our authority. ¹⁰This is why, if I come, I will remind him of the works he is doing, slandering us with malicious words. And he is not satisfied with that! He not only refuses to welcome fellow believers, but he even stops those who want to do so and expels them from the church. ¹¹Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God. ¹²Everyone speaks well of Demetrius – even the truth itself. And we also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

Truth and love expose leadership

How do we balance truth and love?

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- **The Model — Jesus Christ**
 - We must abide in Him and His teachings

BIG PICTURE

**By the power of the gospel, we can
abide in the Lord and learn to love in
truth and speak truth in love**



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