

## 2 John

Real Love doesn't Compromise Truth

### Introduction

**Battle between Truth and Error:** God's People continually having to contend for the Faith

1. Began in Garden as Eve fell to Satan's scheme
  - **Satan's Slander:** God is holding back His best from you
  - **Satan's Offer:** I will give you secret wisdom; you will be "like God"
2. Sin enters and world digresses into **unspeakable evil...**

**Genesis 6:5** Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every intent** of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually.**

3. Noah preaches righteousness 100 years with hammer in hand
4. **Truth disregarded**/Falseness and Evil are embraced
5. **Judgment:** Worldwide flood followed by grace: New beginning with 8 People
6. **Tower of Babel:**

- **Q.** What happens when a lot of sinners are together in one place?
- **A.** A lot of sin. Humanity once again led astray
- **Tower to Heaven:** Re-Emergence on Religion
  - **General Contractor:** Satan.
  - **Superintendent:** Nimrod hunter of men's souls
  - **Purpose:** Build a tower to worship host of heaven; astrology
  - **Result:** Demonic activity again pervades humanity
  - **God's Judgment:** People scattered throughout world

**Acts 17:26** [God] made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the *boundaries of their dwellings*, **27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him**

- **Instead:** Nations birthed/each nation created "their own god"

7. **Meanwhile:** Abraham, Isaac and Jacob worship living God
8. **From Jacob 12 Tribes**/Egypt/Promised Land/Priests, Kings and Prophets
9. **OT: Prophets warn against idolatry** and call for worship of True Living God

Satan and Demons send out willing men/woman/kids to promote his agenda

**Battle between Truth and Error: God's People continually contending for Faith**

- **Continued in Apostle John's day:** Judaizers, False-apostles, Gnostics and Docetists
  1. **Gr. Gnosis;** i.e. knowledge
  2. Primarily 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> century but throughout and today also
  3. Worship of secret knowledge; more knowledge the closer to god you are

4. Material world is evil
5. Man's Salvation is found in discovering secrets; Free-masons of today

- Eve coveted Satan's offer of secret wisdom so she could **"be like God"**

**Genesis 3:4** [After God's warning]... the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your **eyes will be opened, and you will be like God**, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to **make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate.

- Paul warned the Corinthians of seeking more than God knows is best

**2 Corinthians 11:3** ...I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

When our quest for knowledge quenches our love for God and people we have gone too far

**1 Corinthians 8:1 Knowledge puffs up**, but love edifies.

- **2 John**: Docetism; spin of Gnosticism: gr. *Dokesis*; i.e. appearance

**Believed that Jesus was spirit...and only appeared human.**

They did not believe that Jesus came in the flesh but that Jesus humanity was only an illusion... *thus His sacrifice was a sham and incapable of Salvation*

- Jesus went through great lengths to prove he was not a spirit

**Luke 24:37** [Read] [Post-resurrection] [the disciples] were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. **...39** Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." **...41** But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" **42** So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. **43** And He took it and ate in their presence.

Many Gnostics/ Docetists claimed to be Christian if you asked them. Bible carrying deceivers

- **Damning doctrine from the pit of Hell**: Man Jesus did not really die on the cross
- **Always attacking Person and Work of Christ**

1. **Gnostic denied humanity of Christ**
2. **Later in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Century's Arian's would deny the deity of Christ**

Arianism is the belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was begotten by God the Father at a point in time, a creature distinct from the Father and is therefore subordinate to him. Arian teachings were first attributed to Arius (c. AD 256–336)

Arius Death as described by enemy Socrates Scholasticus: It was then Saturday, and Arius was expecting to assemble with the church on the day following: but divine retribution overtook his daring criminalities. For going out of the imperial palace, attended by a crowd of Eusebian partisans like guards, he paraded proudly through the midst of the city, attracting the notice of all the people. As he approached the place called Constantine's Forum, where the column of porphyry is erected, *a terror arising from the remorse of conscience seized Arius, and with the terror a violent relaxation of the bowels: he therefore enquired whether there was a convenient place near, and being directed to the*

*back of Constantine's Forum, he hastened thither. Soon after a faintness came over him, and together with the evacuations his bowels protruded, followed by a copious hemorrhage, and the descent of the smaller intestines: moreover portions of his spleen and liver were brought off in the effusion of blood, so that he almost immediately died. The scene of this catastrophe still is shown at Constantinople, as I have said, behind the shambles in the colonnade: and by persons going by pointing the finger at the place, there is a perpetual remembrance preserved of this extraordinary kind of death.*

**Don't mess with the Person of Jesus Christ** [Though could have been poison]  
**Bible teaches Jesus is 100% Deity and 100% Human**

- **Arianism denies Jesus deity:** Re-emerged/re-packaged as today's JW's, Mormons
- **2<sup>nd</sup> John:** Heretics who deny Jesus humanity

Both would claim to be Christian if you asked them. Bible carrying deceivers

**Matthew 23:15** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."

- Elect Lady was falling for their smooth talk

Love is like a river...When it stays within its banks it is refreshing and life giving but when it overflows it is destructive and leaves a trail of dead bodies. [NJC]

- John gently yet certainly rebukes well-meaning home church leaders...

**It's time to wake up/grow up...this is not a game but life/death**  
**You are responsible for being discerning as to whom you let teach**

## I. Greeting

### 1 The Elder...

- **Elder:** gr. *pres-bü'-te-ros* : Advanced in life, seasoned citizen John about 90 Yrs. old

**Expectation for Christian elder is that we have grown in wisdom**

**Proverbs 16:31** The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness.

**Proverbs 20:29** ... the splendor [majesty, honor, beauty] of old men is their gray head.

- **Author:** John the Apostle
- Author of Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3rd John and Revelation w/emphasis on...
  1. Deity of Jesus
  2. Calling Out False doctrine
  3. Loving one another as a validation of true faith
  4. End Times: AC/FP, Coming Temple/Devils demise/Coming Kingdom
- **John knew Jesus as** Love, Light, and Eternal Life

### 1b...To the elect lady

- From the Elder to the **Elect Lady:** Lit. picked out/chosen by God.
- **Elect Lady?**

1. Group of home churches
2. A lady from a home church
3. Mary mother of Jesus?

**John 19:26** [At cross] **"Woman, behold your son!"** 27 Then He said to the disciple, **"Behold your mother!"** And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

**Elect lady?** Anyone having a tendency to overemphasize Love to the detriment of Truth

When "love" becomes oo-wee-goo-ee sickening sweet exaggeration of itself

**1c...**and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, 2 because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

- **From the Elder to the elect lady...and her children**

1. To the ones who I truly love
2. To the ones who have known the truth

**It is the common truth of the Gospel of Jesus abiding in us...  
...that binds us together in love forever. Equal at foot of cross.**

- Being *in the Truth* means we are *in Jesus*...who is the Truth

**John 14:6** "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life.

- **John uses word "truth" 37x in NT**
- If we do not love others who love truth *we are not walking in truth*

**1 John 2:9** He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now...**11** ...he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

**1 John 4:20** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

- **NOTE** : Elder and Elect lady: General terms due to great persecution
- To elect lady and her children in the Truth...

**3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you...**

- **Proclamation not a prayer:** These things will be with you...
  1. **Grace:** gr. *khā'-rēs* Favor/Undeserved Kindness; get more than we deserve
  2. **Mercy:** gr. *e'-le-os* Good will towards the miserable and the afflicted
  3. **Peace:** gr. *ā-rā'-nā* Rest and quietness
- **These things will be with you ...**

**3b...**from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

- **God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

1. Jesus is the Son of the Father
2. Jesus is Revealed in both truth and love

**Jesus is not only truth...but love  
Jesus is not only love...but truth**

- **Jesus was filled with both grace and truth...**

**John 1:14** ...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of **grace and truth**.

**John 1:17** ...the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ.

**Truth without love is brutality...Love without truth is hypocrisy**

- We must strive for that same perfect combination of truth and love...

**Ephesians 4:15** but, speaking the **truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

**SUMMARY Greeting the Elect Lady:** John will now speak boldly in both truth and love...

## **II. Walk in Real Love**

4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found **some of your children** walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

- No greater joy than seeing people come to faith

**3 John 1:3** For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. 4 I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children walk in truth.

- **Purpose of Gospel of John:** Salvation

**John 20:31** ...these [things] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

- **We received the "Command of the Father"**

**The Biggie! ...Love one another**

5 And now **I plead with you**, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that **we love one another**.

**Matthew 22:37** Jesus said to him, "'You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- Paul narrows it down to one...

**Galatians 5:14** For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

- Paul leaves out the first because it is exemplified by the second

John pleads with the lady who had invited teachers into her home to love  
By every outward appearance *she is loving people...so why is John pleading?*

6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

**Walk in Love; i.e. Daily Life. Daily grind. Everyday Living.**

- **Walk in Love:** gr. *pe-rē-pā-te'-ō* Love as a life-style

Q. **So what is the problem?** A. **Real love does not compromise truth**

**SUMMARY Walk in Real Love.**

### **III. Beware of Antichrist Deceivers**

**John's going to get down to the nitty-gritty  
To teach to elect lady what it really means to love**

- She is unbalanced; leaning toward love w/out truth...**and thing are getting messy**

**Love is like a river; refreshing within its banks but devastating when it overflows**

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh.

- Deceivers let loose into the world by Satan:
  1. False missionaries muddying the Waters of Truth
  2. Blocking the way to Eternal Life

**Matthew 23:13** "...woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, **nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.**

**They do not confess Jesus Christ came in the Flesh?**

**Problem?** If Jesus did not suffer, die, resurrect in flesh but was a façade...**No salvation**

- The elect lady was becoming a **"soft-target"**

**7b...This is a deceiver and an antichrist.**

- Who? Anyone who does not agree Jesus came in the flesh
- Deceiver and an **Anti-Christ**

**1 John 2:18** Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now **many antichrists** have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

- **Anti- Christ**
  1. In place of Christ
  2. Against Christ or both

### **Replacing the person of Jesus as Savior with a Religion/Organization as savior**

- JW's call their own Watchtower organization "**the truth**"
- When they ask if you are *still in the truth*...
  1. It has nothing to do with Jesus or truth
  2. They are really asking if you still are a JW
- **2 Questions asked before JW is baptized:**
  1. "On the basis of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, have you repented of your sins and dedicated yourself to Jehovah to do his will?"
  2. "Do you understand that your dedication and baptism identify you as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in association with God's spirit-directed **organization**?"

### **Replacing the True Jesus with and organization/religion that cannot save**

**8 Look to yourselves**, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

### **Strong Warning to those who seem to have it together: Look to yourself**

- **Evaluate what you are doing;** who you allow to teach and the effect on others
  1. Don't lose those things we worked for; equipped to share Gospel
  2. Stay alert that you don't lose your reward; **people you lead to Christ**

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** ...what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? **20 For you are our glory and joy.**

- **Serious issue:** Who we allow to teach. Who allow to teach we condone to others

**9 Whoever transgresses** and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.

- **Transgresses:** gr. *pä-rä-bī'-nō* Go by the side of, go past, overstep
- **Does not abide:** gr. *me'-nō* Remain, continue, tarry in

**1 Corinthians 4:6** [Do not...] think **beyond what is written**, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

- Beyond what is written: Pet doctrines, not whole counsel of God

Those who do not abide in the teachings of Jesus...do not have God

- Many have left orthodox Christianity: Change teachings, bibles to be more appealing

**1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

- **Millerites: Two groups went out...**

1. JW's
2. SDA

- **Both will say they are Christian. Both are not.**

**1 John 4:3** [Read] Beloved, do **not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that **Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God**, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

- False-teaching masquerades as deeper wisdom *than just in Bible...*[eyes opened]

"When the teaching of the Bible needs to be supplemented by some 'key' to the Bible or by some new revelation, it is a sure sign that 'advanced' doctrine is being put forth." [Marshall]

**9b...**He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

- He who does abide [Remain, continue in] the doctrine of Christ has both Father/ Son

#### **What is the doctrine of Christ?**

- Jesus came in the flesh; i.e. God came in the flesh

**1 Timothy 3:16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh**, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

- **True Gospel:** Gospel of Grace
- God became man and died in our place to pay for our sin...

**Galatians 1:6** [Read] I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

- **Another Gospel/Another Jesus...**

**1 Corinthians 11:3** [Read] [I told you the truth but...] I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity[a] that



is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive a **different spirit** which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

- If you have a different Jesus you have a different Gospel
- If you have a different Gospel you have a different spirit

If you have a different spirit than Jesus Spirit...your mission is motivated by Satan

**1 John 4:3** ...every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the **spirit of the Antichrist**

**10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him...

**Do not receive them those who do not believe God was manifest in the flesh**

- **Receive** gr. *lām-bā'-nō* to take with hand, lay hold of  
Do not greet him with a blessing
- With regard to what you say
- Lit. Don not bid them Godspeed; gr. *khī'-rō* Lit. Rejoice, be glad, farewell

**Do not receive them those who do not believe God was manifest in the flesh**

- To receive them would be condoning what they teach and worse...

**11** for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

**Johns Dire Warning speaking the Truth in Love...**

If you greet a false-prophet you become in purpose with them

- John is speaking primarily to those *teaching* false-doctrine

We are defined by what we reject as much as by what we accept. In this, some are so open minded that they are empty headed. It is wise to keep an open mind on many things; but one would never keep an open mind about which poisons a person might try. You may say yes to all the right things; but one must also say no to what is false and evil. We need to become good at rejecting what should be rejected. [Guzik]

- Very careful of what/whom we condone...
  1. **George Bush:** Quran is a Holy Book?
  2. **Barak Obama:** Islam's *holy* scriptures?
  3. **Donald Trump...**

**05/15/2018** "With the rising of tonight's moon, I send my greetings and best wishes to all Muslims observing Ramadan in the United States and around the world," the president said in a statement released by the White House.

**SUMMARY Beware of Antichrist Deceivers**

## **IV. Farewell**

12 Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

- **Fellowship leads to Fullness of Joy:** Fellowship with God and others

**1 John 1:3** [We declare Jesus to you...] that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

- Fullness of Joy as we fellowship with Jesus in both Love and Truth
  1. Jesus is 100% God therefore He is able to save
  2. Jesus is 100% Human therefore we know He was willing to save

Jesus was born in the flesh, lived perfect life in the flesh, suffered and died in the flesh and rose again in the flesh. "It is finished"

13 The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

- **Elect sister:** No one knows
- **Children of Elect sister:** No one knows. Aliases during persecution

**POINT:** God's Word produces offspring recognized by their walking in the Truth. We have the God-given mandate to guard against the diluting and polluting of the Word of God by false prophets ...**even when it may appear unloving. The issue is Heaven and Hell**