

A Study of the General Epistles

(NT Survey Lesson 211--2 John)

Introduction: It has long been debated whether 2 John was written to a Christian woman and her natural offspring, or a local church with its members. Clearly it was written to a plurality of people, most likely a Christian woman, perhaps named "Cyria", and her children. John writes to commend the woman for the faithfulness of her children and to exhort her attention to two important matters: 1) the need to love one another (v. 5-6) and 2) the need to take caution concerning false teachers (v. 7-11).

Lesson aim: To emphasize the proper relationship to the faithful and also to those who do not abide in the teaching of Christ.

Greeting and commendation for walking in truth--2 Jn. 1-4

1. To whom is this letter addressed? How did John feel about them? What did John say would abide with and be with them forever?
2. What had John found the "elect lady's" children doing? Who had commanded this?

Commandment to love one another--2 John 5-6

1. What commandment did John give to the "elect lady"? Was this a new commandment? How long had she known it?
2. What did John say was love?

Cautions concerning false teachers & concluding remarks--2 John 7-13

1. Who did John say had gone out into the world? What did they teach about Jesus? How did John describe them?
2. What warning did John give to the elect lady and her children? What did John say could happen to them?

3. What did John say about those who go too far and do not abide in the teaching of Christ? In this context, what is the teaching of Christ?
4. What were the "elect lady and her children" to do with those who did not bring this teaching? Is this referring to any social relationship or to support in the work of preaching? (Explain your answer).
5. Why did John say one should not give a greeting to false teachers?
6. (Thought question:) Are we to refuse fellowship to any and all who believe and teach differently from us in any way? Some of them? How do we decide whom?