

**THE EPISTLE OF 2 JOHN  
WALKING IN TRUTH AND LOVE  
2 JOHN 1-6**

**Introduction**

There are differing views about who this letter was written to.

- (1) Some say that this “*elect lady*” was a particular woman along with her children with whom the Apostle had developed a strong friendship.
- (2) Others, including myself, believe the “*elect lady*” was a Church and her children the members making up that Church. Remember that in Scripture a Church is spoken of in the feminine gender, bride, etc.

Regardless of who it was written too, it contains a powerful message, to both Churches and to the individuals that make up local Churches.

This short epistle is built around four principles which are stated in four words. **TRUTH; LOVE; DOCTRINE; FELLOWSHIP**

**FIRST WE SEE JOHN SPEAKS OF WALKING IN TRUTH. (Vs. 1-4)**

– “*truth*” is mentioned five times in the first four verses. Let’s ask a couple of relevant questions here:

**I. WHAT IS TRUTH ACCORDING TO GOD’S WORD?**

**(“According to God’s Word” is an important aspect of truth because the world we live in doesn’t believe in ABSOLUTE TRUTH, but rather RELATIVE TRUTH of which there is no such thing! TRUTH IS TRUTH! IF IT IS NOT TRUTH, IT IS A LIE)**

**A. We Know GOD And His WORD Are TRUTH!**

**Jesus said in John 7:28, “...I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is TRUE...”**

**Because God is TRUE, when He speaks, He speaks TRUTH! God is NOT going to lie to us!**

**Jesus prayed to His Heavenly Father in John 17:17**

**“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”**

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**King David said these words to God:**

*2 Samuel 7:28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:*

**God’s Words are TRUE!**

*Hebrews 6:18 says that the fact that it is “impossible for God to lie” is one of two immutable things!*

**(Immutable = unchangeable)**

*We Know GOD And His WORD Are TRUTH!*

**B. We Know The Son Of God Is TRUTH!**

*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

**Jesus Christ Came To Reveal The TRUTH Of God!**

*John 1:14 And the Word was made 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.*

The **TRUTH** of God was revealed to us in Christ Jesus!

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

“**What Is TRUTH?**” is a question posed to Jesus Christ by Pilate as Jesus was brought before him to be tried.

Pilate was staring **TRUTH** in the face but he was so depraved by sin and blinded by Satan that he couldn’t see **THE TRUTH!**

*2 Corinthians 4:3-4 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

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*God and His Word Are TRUTH...*

*The Son Of God Is TRUTH...*

C. **We Know The SPIRIT OF GOD Is TRUTH!**

**Jesus called Him the SPIRIT OF TRUTH in**

**John 14:16-17** 16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

**John 15:26** *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even **the Spirit of truth**, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

**Jesus Said That The Spirit Of Truth Will Guide Us Into All Truth!**

**John 16:13-14** 13 *Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth**, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

**When the Spirit of God convicts, He does so in TRUTH!**

The Spirit Of God Knows The Truth About Us...The Truth About The Father...The Truth About The Son!

The Spirit Of God Takes The Word Of God And Shows Us The Truth Of God! (*John 16:8-11*)

He Convicts Us Of The Sin In Our Life!

He Convicts Us Of The Righteousness Of Christ!

He Convicts Us Of The Judgment To Come!

*So, we've answered the question "WHAT IS TRUTH ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD?" which is important but let's answer another question here:*

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II. **WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH THE TRUTH?**

A. **Our Love For Each Other Should Be Based In The Truth We Each Possess As Believers! (Vs 1)**

(i.e. Our love should be **in the truth**, or **according to the truth, not apart from the truth!** Love is the basis of our fellowship as believers!)

John's love for this "*elect lady and her children*" was based on what the Truth of what Jesus had done both in the life of John and in this "*elect lady and her children.*"

**What THE TRUTH has done IN OUR LIFE and IN THE LIFE OF FELLOW BELIEVERS is the basis of our LOVE ONE FOR ANOTHER!**

**THE TRUTH IN US wants to keep US from being drawn into or drifting into error!**

**THE TRUTH IN US also wants to help OTHERS who have Jesus from being drawn into or drifting into error!**

B. **We Are To Love Others In The Truth For The Truth's Sake That Dwelleth In Us And Them Both Now And Forever! (Vs 2) (i.e. For Christ's sake!)**

Our Love for others is not to be based upon them, but rather is to be based upon the Truth that dwells in them!

1. **The Truth Of God's Grace! (Vs 3a)**

*Titus 2:11-13 – 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

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*Eph. 2:8-9, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**2. The Truth Of God's Mercy! (Vs 3b)**

*Ephesians 2:4, But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.*

**3. The Truth Of God's Peace! (Vs 3c)**

Peace guards our hearts.

*Philippians 4:7 – “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

*Romans 5:1, Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**4. The source of these blessings. (vs. 3)**

Grace, mercy, and peace came our way via the TRUTH found in the Heavenly Father And His Son Jesus Christ!

Grace, mercy, and peace came our way via the LOVE from the Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ!

**C. We Are To Walk In Truth That We Have Received And That Dwells In Us As Believers! (Vs 4)**

The Apostle here says that he found of her children walking in TRUTH which is in accordance with the commandment received from the Heavenly Father!

Walking in TRUTH is the correct course for the life of the Believer and the one commanded for the life of the Believer! And it was a source of joy and rejoicing for the Apostle!

He speaks a lot in these epistles of the Believer's walk!

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Paul spoke a lot about the Believer's walk!  
*(1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 4:17-24, 30-32; 5:1-8  
Philippians 2:1-6; Colossians 2:6-8)*

**D. A Walk In The TRUTH Is A Walk In Love! (Vs. 5-6)**

*Matthew 22:36-40 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

**1. The Heavenly Father prompts us to walk in LOVE!**

**2. The Lord Jesus Christ prompts us to walk in LOVE!**

**3. The Holy Spirit prompts us to walk in LOVE!**

*Galatians 5:22, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.*

**4. Obedience to God will bring about a walk in LOVE!**

**Conclusion**

So tonight:

1. Have you believed the TRUTH ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD? Are you born again? If not, come and believe the TRUTH!

2. You who have believed the TRUTH ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH TRUTH? We've seen that it is to be the basis of our fellowship with other believers. Is it?

We've seen that it is to be the basis of our walk as Believers. Is it the basis of your walk?