



2 John 1:1-13

¹The elder,
To the lady chosen by God and to her
children, whom I love in the truth—and not
I only, but also all who know the truth—²
because of the truth, which lives in us and will
be with us forever:

³Grace, mercy and peace from God the
Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s
Son, will be with us in truth and love.

⁴It has given me great joy to find some of
your children walking in the truth, just as the
Father commanded us. ⁵And now, dear lady,
I am not writing you a new command but one
we have had from the beginning. I ask that we
love one another. ⁶And this is love: that we
walk in obedience to his commands. As you
have heard from the beginning, his command
is that you walk in love.

⁷I say this because many deceivers, who do
not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming
in the flesh, have gone out into the world.
Any such person is the deceiver and the
antichrist. ⁸Watch out that you do not lose
what we have worked for, but that you may be
rewarded fully. ⁹Anyone who runs ahead and
does not continue in the teaching of Christ
does not have God; whoever continues in the
teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If
anyone comes to you and does not bring this
teaching, do not take them into your house
or welcome them. ¹¹Anyone who welcomes
them shares in their wicked work.

¹²I have much to write to you, but I do not
want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to
visit you and talk with you face to face, so that
our joy may be complete.

¹³The children of your sister, who is chosen
by God, send their greetings.

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Balancing Love and Truth



Read

You’ve made it this far in our journey through the letters of John! Today you’ll be reading an entire book of the Bible, all of 2 John. As you prepare yourself to read, still your mind and your heart and remember what we have been learning in 1 John. Specifically, remember that 1 John has taught us about being in loving fellowship with God and to love one another as a way of following the commandments of God.



Think

As you read through 2 John, do you hear any echoes from 1 John? Are there any words or verses or ideas that stand out to you? If so, write them down and take a moment to reflect upon what God may be saying to you right now.

Reading through 2 John, we can see the author rejoicing in the fact that his audience has been walking in the truth, namely, the truth that has been commanded to them by the Father. But what is this truth? What is the commandment that the Father has called us to walk in? Well, the author tells us that this is no new commandment but one that has been given to us from the beginning. The author also tells us that following this commandment is what love is all about. And so, he reveals it to us by telling us that this commandment is to love one another.

It is those who have the Father and the Son, those who are in fellowship with God by the power of the Holy Spirit, who are given this great opportunity and calling to love one another. If we are to think through how all this works together, we see that the author is painting a beautiful image of the Christian life for us. Just as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit love one another and live together in beautiful fellowship, so he also invites us believers to be a part of this wonderful fellowship! We get to join the great fellowship of God! And now through this experience, we now get to go out and love one another. When we experience true fellowship with God, we also now experience true fellowship with one another. And so, the author tells us, go love one another because you have experienced this great love from God!



Pray

Let’s pray: “Heavenly Father, thank you for your love and your grace for us. Thank you that you love us so much that you invite us to be in fellowship with you. You already had perfect fellowship in yourself – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – but you chose to invite us to experience that as well. So now that you have given me this great love, help me go and love those around me. Help us invite those around us into fellowship, especially when it is difficult to do so.”



Live

As you go out into the world, take a moment to think about those who you have a difficult time loving. Perhaps there is a co-worker you just don’t get along with or maybe someone in your small group that you always butt heads with. Take a moment to reflect upon how God has invited you to be in fellowship with him and think about how you now have the opportunity and privilege to invite that difficult person into fellowship with you as well.