

# Outline of the Book of 2 John

The book of 2 John, written by the Apostle John, is a brief letter that emphasizes truth, love, and the need to guard against false teachers. John writes to "the elect lady and her children," encouraging them to walk in truth and love while being vigilant against deceivers. Below is an exhaustive outline of 2 John, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

## I. Introduction (1:1-3)

- A. The Elder's Greeting (1-3)
  - 1. From the elder (1a)
  - 2. To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth (1b)
  - 3. Not only I, but also all who know the truth (1c)
  - 4. Because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever (2)
  - 5. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, in truth and love (3)

## II. Walking in Truth and Love (1: 4-6)

- A. Joy in the Elect Lady's Children Walking in Truth (4)
  - 1. John's joy at finding some of the lady's children walking in the truth (4a)
  - 2. Just as the Father commanded us (4b)
- B. Exhortation to Love One Another (5)
  - 1. A new commandment that we love one another (5a)
  - 2. Not as though it were a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning (5b)
- C. Walking in Love and Obedience (6)
  - 1. Love means walking according to His commandments (6a)
  - 2. This is the commandment you have heard from the beginning (6b)

## III. Warning Against False Teachers (1: 7-11)

- A. The Deceivers and Antichrists (7)
  - 1. Many deceivers have gone out into the world (7a)
  - 2. Those who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh (7b)
  - 3. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist (7c)
- B. Guard Yourselves (8)
  - 1. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for (8a)
  - 2. But may win a full reward (8b)
- C. Abiding in the Teaching of Christ (9)
  - 1. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ does not have God (9a)
  - 2. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son (9b)
- D. Do Not Welcome False Teachers (10-11)
  - 1. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting (10)

2. For whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works (11)

## IV. Conclusion (1:12-13)

- A. John's Intention to Visit (12)
  1. Though he has much to write, he does not want to use paper and ink (12a)
  2. Hopes to come and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete (12b)
- B. Final Greeting (13)
  1. The children of your elect sister greet you (13)

## Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in 2 John

### 1. Failing to Walk in Truth (1:4):

- **Danger:** Not continuing in the truth as commanded by the Father.
- **Application:** Walk in truth, adhering to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

### 2. Neglecting the Commandment to Love One Another (1:5-6):

- **Danger:** Not loving one another, which is a fundamental commandment from the beginning.
- **Application:** Love one another by walking according to God's commandments.

### 3. Deception by False Teachers (1:7):

- **Danger:** Being led astray by deceivers who deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.
- **Application:** Recognize and reject deceivers and the antichrist, staying true to the doctrine of Christ's incarnation.

### 4. Losing Reward Due to Lack of Vigilance (1:8):

- **Danger:** Not being watchful, resulting in losing the full reward of faithfulness.
- **Application:** Be vigilant to preserve what has been worked for, aiming to receive a full reward.

### 5. Departing from the Teaching of Christ (1:9):

- **Danger:** Going beyond and not abiding in the teaching of Christ, thereby not having God.
- **Application:** Abide in the teaching of Christ to have both the Father and the Son.

### 6. Associating with False Teachers (1:10-11):

- **Danger:** Receiving and welcoming those who do not bring the true teaching of Christ, participating in their wicked works.
- **Application:** Do not receive or greet false teachers to avoid sharing in their wicked works.

## Well-known Passages from 2 John

[2 John 1:5-6 ESV] And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

[2 John 1:7 ESV] For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

[2 John 1:8-9 ESV] Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

## Conclusion for 2 John

By understanding these dangers and following John's instructions, believers can remain steadfast in their faith, walk in truth and love, and protect themselves from the influence of false teachers.