

3 Johns Study Series
Study #6: Children Walking In Truth
2 John 1:1 - 13
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

2 John is a very short book it only has one chapter. Let us continue our study in the books of 3 John and learn power lesson that we need to understand and apply in the last days.

What is the introduction of 2 John and who was the letter originally written to?

2 John 1:1

1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

Elect (Greek) = eklektos [ek-lek-tos'] From G1586; **select; by implication favorite:** - chosen, elect.

2 John 1:1 is a greeting of a letter from John as an elder, to a fellow faithful "sister" in the truth and her children. It is obvious that this "elect lady" was one of John's favorite in the truth and very well known among the believers in the truth. She had the type of Godly character that greatly benefited the church of God and community, like Tabitha also known as Dorcas.

Acts 9:36

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was **full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.**

Ministry and evangelism was the center of Tabitha's life. She spared no expense of giving her all to the mission of God in the community. Her works and monetary contributions was a great blessing to the church and the community. Tabitha was not only very loved and well known among the believers, but as the community as a whole.

What happened to Tabitha and what was the people's response?

Acts 9:37-42

37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

Tabitha was known to make clothes and coats for the widows and her children. This is an amazing story of the power of Jesus to resurrect Tabitha from the dead. But it also shows the great influence and impact that she had on the community.

Thought question: Is your influence and mission in Christ impacting the community that surrounds you like Tabitha's. What would be the community's reaction if you passed away? Would it be like those who mourned after the passing of Tabitha?

Going back to 2 John 1:1, the elect lady, appeared to have that same Godly influence in her family, church, and community.

What unified the elect lady, her family, and the church?

2 John 1:2

2 For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

True unity is when believers are unified by BIBLE TRUTH, not through worldly socials and ideas. Jesus who is the truth is the center of their mission and daily life. They remain in the truth as they dwell in Jesus and Jesus dwells in them.

What great blessing did John want God to bestow upon the "elect lady" in Christ?

2 John 1:3

3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Grace, mercy, and peace are gifts that only comes from God to faithful believers who dwell in God's truth.

Grace is God's gift to give a repentant sinner the benefits of God that cannot be earned by man.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Mercy is God's love and compassion that is bestowed to those who are obedient to God.

Who is mercy given to as a gift from God? (What does Jesus say at the end of the second commandment)

Exodus 20:6

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

True peace only comes from Jesus. God's peace gives us true rest in Christ. He give the faithful rest from the craziness and stresses of the world.

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Psalms 29:11

11 The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

Philippians 4:7

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

What was John's reaction about the elect lady's children?

2 John 1:4

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

John was excited that the elect lady's children were also walking in the truth.

This is of course the desire of every true believer in Christ.

As parents, what is our main role to our children?

Proverbs 22:6

6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Remember as parents it is our role to raise soldiers for Jesus Christ. We must prepare them to be residents of the kingdom of heaven. Educating the children is the main the responsibility of the parents and not strangers who do not share the values and beliefs of God.

The parents are responsible for building the foundation of the knowledge and will of God starting in the womb. We must train them about keeping the commandments of God.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 7

1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

This is the greatest need of every home! Just think if all our children were raised knowing the commandments of God and living in Christ. What would our communities look like? Parents have the responsibility to create a pure home environment that trains all the children in the ways of God. There is no mixing worldliness with Godliness in the home. This blesses them to become followers of Christ even into adulthood. The mixing of things of the world and the things of God in the home is hypocrisy! It causes confusion and undoes many of the Godly things that were taught. Parent never forget faithful children become faithful adults and spoiled children become spoiled adults.

The most impressionable years of a child's life is from the womb to about 12 or 13 years old.

It is not the parent's job to get the children the latest videos games, movies, or worldly fashions. Many parents are working themselves to "bone" and unable to raise their children in the more formidable years.

"Parents should not lightly regard the work of training their children, nor neglect it upon any account. They should employ much time in careful study of the laws which regulate our being. They should

make it their first object to become intelligent in regard to the proper manner of dealing with their children, that they may secure to them sound minds in sound bodies. . . . Many who profess to be followers of Christ are sadly neglectful of home duties; they do not perceive the sacred importance of the trust which God has placed in their hands, to so mold the characters of their children that they will have the moral stamina to resist the many temptations that ensnare the feet of youth.” – Ellen White, Child Guidance p. 21 - 22

Timothy during the time of Paul was raised at home to be a faithful worker and soldier for Christ.

2 Timothy 3:15

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Your child's first textbook and reader should be the Holy Bible.

The children should be taught a trade – able to work with their hands. This is the way Jesus was brought up. He was a carpenter.

“Among the Jews physical toil was not thought strange or degrading. Through Moses the Hebrews had been instructed to train their children to industrious habits, and it was regarded as a sin to allow the youth to grow up in ignorance of physical labor. Even though a child was to be educated for holy office, a knowledge of practical life was thought essential. Every youth, whether his parents were rich or poor, was taught some trade. Those parents who neglected to provide such a training for their children were looked upon as departing from the instruction of the Lord. In accordance with this custom, Paul had early learned the trade of tentmaking.” {Act of the Apostles p 346.2}

There are many trades today that our youth can learn that can give them flexibility in their ministry for Christ, but also many trades teach great lessons that can enhance your work for Christ.

There are many trades that can be done as your own business such as carpentry, general contractor, welding, painting, roofing, plumbing, electrician, brick layer (mason), flooring, auto repair, window installer, gutter installer, landscaper, and general handyman work.

It is a great mistake to train your children to be an employee of worldly businesses. Many of these businesses reject God and His commandments.

Going back to 2 John 1, What was one of the main message of the letter in which we can learn?

2 John 1:5

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we **love one another**.

Beseech (Greek) = erōtaō [er-o-tah'-o]

Apparently from G2046 (compare G2045); to **interrogate**; by implication to **request**: - ask, beseech, desire, intreat, pray.

How do we “love one another?” This is answered in the next verse

1 John 1:6

6 And **this is love, that we walk after his commandments**. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

Love = walk after God's commandment. It teaches us how to love God and how to love each other.

The modern churches today are teaching that we should unify just because we call ourselves Christians. This is what is mistaken as love. This is NOT love.

What warning does Jesus give?

2 John 1:7-8

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

We MUST stay faithful to the message and testimony that God has given us from the foundation of His church. We cannot allow this to be taken away from us. NEVER forget the basic truths of God's Word.

What does God tell us to do to those who reject the commandments of God and try to teach false doctrines in the Church?

2 John 1:9-10

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

God speed (Greek) chairō [khah'ee-ro] - be full of "cheer", that is, calmly happy or well off; impersonal especially as a salutation (on meeting or parting), be well: - farewell, be glad, God speed, greeting, hail, joy (-fully), rejoice.

There is no joy in error and rejection of God's commandments. This is very serious! To remain in a church environment that rejects the commandments of God. We are never to approve this.

What does God tell us to do?

Ephesians 5:6-8

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Revelation 18:4

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

What does God say about those who bid God's speed to others who reject the commandments of God and give a false light ministry of Jesus?

2 John 1:11

11 For he that **biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.**

How does John end the letter to the elect sister in Christ?

2 John 1:12-13

12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.