

Book of 2 John

1. 2 John

1) Observation: What word does John repeatedly use as he begins the letter? (1:1, 2, 3, 4)

2) Interpretation: What does John mean by "truth" in his letter? When introducing himself as an "elder," what is his intention behind this expression?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): John confesses that God is love and that He loved us first (1 John 4:8-9). In 2 John, he confirms that "we should love one another. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments" (1:5-6). When and under what circumstances did you experience God's love for you? How did that experience make a difference?

3.2(God Meeting Us): John writes this letter to the "elect lady and her children" (1:1). He remembers and encourages them with special affection. When did God call you to be a special recipient of encouragement and attention like this? How did that experience change you?

3.3(God Refinding Us): While John says, "We should love one another and live in love" (3:6), he strongly advises against welcoming "deceivers, the enemies of Christ" (1:7), or those who do not abide in the teaching of Christ (1:9) into their homes or greeting them (1:10), thus setting clear standards for "Christian hospitality." Have you experienced God's restoration of a community through someone when confusion arose from loving without boundaries?

3.4(God Inspiring US): After providing the standards and boundaries for "Christian hospitality," John confesses that he experiences "joy" when he shows hospitality and extends love to "itinerant preachers of the gospel" (1:12). Have you had a similar experience? What specific joy did you experience after showing hospitality to someone?

4) Real Life Today: As you read 2 John, you may sense a tension between "unconditional love from God (1:6)" and "conditional love within our community (1:10)." How should we establish the standards or boundaries for Christian love and hospitality? How can we apply this in specific life situations?