

2 John 1:1-13

New American Standard Version

1 ¹The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love
2 in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ²for
3 the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us
4 forever: ³Grace, mercy *and* peace will be with us, from God
5 the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in
6 truth and love. ⁴I was very glad to find *some* of your
7 children walking in truth, just as we have received
8 commandment *to do* from the Father. ⁵Now I ask you, lady,
9 not as though *I were* writing to you a new commandment,
10 but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we
11 love one another. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according
12 to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as
13 you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in
14 it. ⁷For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those
15 who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the
16 flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸Watch
17 yourselves, that you do not lose what we have
18 accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.
19 ⁹Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the
20 teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides
21 in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.¹⁰If
22 anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do
23 not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a
24 greeting; ¹¹for the one who gives him a greeting participates
25 in his evil deeds. ¹²Though I have many things to write to
26 you, I do not want to *do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to
27 come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be
28 made full. ¹³The children of your chosen sister greet you.

Observation (What does it say?):

Read through the entire letter once before you start marking.

Underline anything that is noticeably different from John's first letter. (If you were not in our discussions about 1 John, what stands out to you in this brief letter?)

Mark with an asterisk * themes or wording you notice from John's first letter.

Circle anything that sounds like a completely new idea that was not in 1 John.

What other observations do you make?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How would you summarize John's purpose in writing this letter?

How do you think this letter relates to 1 John (or does it)? Before or after? To the same church or a different church? Same issues or new ones?

How might the relationship between the two letters affect your reading of both of them?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What parts of this passage fit your current life situation?
- What parts seem unrelated to your circumstances?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- How does the admonition in v. 10 (“do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting”) apply to non-Christians, cult members, or others you encounter?
- What does John say in this letter that relates to our understanding of the relationship between the Father and the Son, i.e., the Trinity?
- “Lady” and “children” and “sister” – are these individuals? Church leaders and members? The church (ekklēsia, ἐκκλησία, a feminine noun)? Who is John writing to? Is he avoiding using names (even his own) for some reason?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Benael (1687-1752)