

— 2 John —
Lesson #3 Chapter 1:1-6

Before you begin this lesson, prepare your heart by going to the Lord for help in understanding His Word and wisdom in applying it. May you be blessed as you dig into this passage!

1. John begins this personal little letter differently than he did for his gospel and his First John epistle. How does John identify himself in verse 1? Though John doesn't use his own name, what does the term he chose to identify himself tell us about him? See also Philemon 9; 1 Peter 5:1.

2. Similarly, though the specific names of the recipients aren't given, John does provide important clues about his friends. What do you learn in verse 1 about those to whom John is writing in this letter?

3. Define *chosen* [Strong's #1588 (ESV, NKJV, HCSB *elect*)].
 - a. Now look up the following verses to see what John is communicating about this "lady" in verse 1. See John 15:16, 19; Colossians 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 2:9.

4. John says he loves this lady and her children *in truth*. In our passage, it's helpful to know John uses "in truth" and "in the truth" interchangeably to indicate something important. From verses 1-4 what do you learn about truth and those who are in truth?

5. John talks a lot about the truth in his writings, so looking at all the verses isn't doable, but we can look at some of them. What do you learn from the following verses about the truth? See John 1:14, 17; 4:23-24; 8:31-32; 14:6; 1 John 1:8; 2:4; 3 John 3.

6. In what ways does truth unite and protect believers, especially when false teachers abound? See Romans 16:18; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 John 1:8; 2:20-27; 3:7-8; 2 John 7.

"The Puritans taught the wind of the Holy Spirit always blows in the direction of the Word of God. Why? Because the Holy Spirit inspired the Word of God. Therefore, to submit to the Word of God is to follow the Holy Spirit." ~Jack Hughes

7. In verse 1 John says he loves the chosen lady and her children in the truth, *and not only I, but also all who know the truth*. What is the connection between truth and love according to 1 John 3:10-11, 14-18; 4:7; 5:1-2?

8. In verse 2 John explains *why* he and "all those who know the truth" have a love for the brethren. What is the reason according to verse 2? How does this coincide with John 4:24?

"The indwelling of evangelical truth, which is here meant, signifies its deep radication [taking root], and powerful transforming efficacy, in the soul, so as to be productive of holiness, as John 17:17; than which nothing can be a greater inducement among Christians of mutual love."¹ ~Matthew Poole

9. Think for a moment about the heart-helping, soul-strengthening truths contained in verse 2. What do you notice in verse 2 that is of special help for all believers?

¹ Poole, Matthew. 1853. *Annotations upon the Holy Bible*. Vol. 3. New York: Robert Carter and Brothers.

- a. See also John 1:9, 17; 8:31-32; 14:16-17; 16:13-14; 1 John 5:20.

“This truth, John describes as “abiding in us.” Smith says, “not merely apprehended by the intellect but welcomed by the heart.” The word is *menō*, which is used often in the Gospels of one living as a guest in the home of another. Thus the truth is a welcome guest in the heart of the Christian. This truth, John says, “shall be with us forever.” Smith adds “as our guest and companion.” ~Kenneth Wuest²

10. What do believers receive according to verse 3? For how long?
- a. Who gives these things?
- b. What is the “gift wrap” of this blessing—that is, in what way do believers receive those special gifts from the Lord according to verse 3?
11. Take some time to think about the special blessing believers receive from the Lord from verse 3, read the two quotes that follow, then comment on the blessing you receive from those truths.
- a. “Grace is God doing for us what we do not deserve, mercy is His not doing to us what we do deserve, and peace is God giving us what we need based upon His grace and mercy. The word order is significant. God’s grace is always prior. Mercy and peace flow from it.”³ ~Daniel Akin

² Wuest, Kenneth S. 1997. *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*. Vol. 14. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

³ Akin, Daniel L. 2001. *1, 2, 3 John*. Vol. 38. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- b. “*Grace*” covers the sins of men; “*mercy*,” their miseries. *Grace* must first do away with man’s guilt before his misery can be relieved by *mercy*. Therefore *grace* stands before *mercy*. *Peace* is the result of both, and therefore stands third in order.”⁴ ~Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown
12. How does biblical truth and love protect us from mushy-headed, worldly-minded thinking about God’s grace, mercy, and peace (verse 3)?
13. What do you learn about this lady’s children in 2 John 4?
14. According to verse 4, why should we expect this kind of response from all those who are God’s children? See also 1 John 1:5-10; 2:3-6.
15. What are some practical ways to walk in truth? Here are *a few* verses to get you started: Psalm 119:33-35, 105; Jeremiah 6:16; John 8:31-32; 14:15; 2 Corinthians 7:1.
16. What does John urge his friend, the lady, to do in verse 5?
17. My! John seems to be making a big deal about old and new commandments! When was the command to love the brethren instituted? See John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17.

⁴ Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. 1997. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. Vol. 2. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

18. Why is it so important to John that we obey this command? Look again at John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; and then at 1 John 3:23; 4:21.
19. How is love described in verse 6? Often, we are confused about what love and obedience for God should look like in our lives, how does this description simplify life for us?
- a. The next time we find ourselves praying, “Lord, I just want you to know how much I love You,” what do we need to remember according to verse 6?

 - b. Anytime you want the Lord to know how much you love Him; you can apply Ephesians 5:1-2. What do you learn from those verses and how are they similar in thought to 2 John 6?

“Keeping of the commandments of God is an evidence of love to God; this shows that love is not in word and tongue, in profession only, but in deed and in truth; and that such persons have a sense of the love of God upon their souls, under the influence of which they act.”⁵ ~John Gill

⁵ Gill, John. 1809. *An Exposition of the New Testament*. Vol. 3. The Baptist Commentary Series. London: Mathews and Leigh.