



# Second John - 1 chapter

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## Title:

The Second Epistle of John – because it is the Second of three epistles written by John

## Author:

The author of this epistle was John, one of Jesus's original twelve disciples. He was the one called "the disciple whom Jesus loved" in the fourth Gospel. This same John is the author of the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation, as well as the three epistles of John. At the time of writing this letter, he was fairly old, and still overseeing a number of churches in Asia minor.

## Occasion and Purpose:

The occasion of this book is similar to the occasion of 1 John. False teachers were active and trying to influence churches. This particular church was not yet affected, but John was anxious for them. The purpose was to be a proactive warning that false teachers were coming. John said, "don't receive them, don't help them." And John taught them how to discern who were false teachers and what to do about it.

## Themes:

1. **Truth** – Christ is the truth. Christ is the most fundamental reality. And everything that conforms to Christ, corresponds to reality, to what is true and real. All who know the truth, love in truth, and all who know the truth love because of the truth. John took great joy when his readers walked in the truth. And that is contrasted with the deceivers, who deal in falsehood.
2. **Love = Obey** – John defined love as walking in obedience to His commands. And His command is to walk in love. We obey what we love, and we love what we obey. As we are conformed to the will of God, we grow in His love. And as we grow in His love, we delight to obey Him.
3. **Doctrine** – John commanded the readers to hold on to the teaching they had received. And they were to avoid and reject those who avoid and reject the teaching. Those who go beyond the teaching and don't continue in the teaching are not from God. To go away from the true doctrine is to go away from the truth and from the love. It is impossible to have love and truth without loving the truth of the doctrine, which is the teaching about Christ.
4. **Partnership** – In this book, partnership can be for good or for bad. If we partner with good things, we do good. If we partner with deceivers, we do bad, and share in their deception. If we even receive, if we greet and welcome a deceiver, then we share in their wicked work, and will share in their punishment, according to John. Therefore, we should choose carefully what we accept and what we support.

## Summary:

John wrote to warn this church of false teachers that were active in their area. They were to discern which teachers were false by the fact that the false teachers did not remain and conform to the teaching of Christ and obey His commands, but rather, went beyond the teaching. The determining factor is whether someone remains faithful to the truth about Christ. And the church was not to receive, greet or support these false teachers in any way. If they gave them support or a platform, they would share in their deception, and be held responsible for taking part in their wicked work.

## Organization:

<b>1-4 Intro</b>	
	<b>1-2 Salutation</b> <b>3 Blessing</b> <b>4 Thanksgiving</b>
<b>5-11 Body</b>	
	<b>5-6 Love and Obedience</b> <b>7-9 Beware Deceivers</b> <b>10-11 Do not receive/help them</b>
<b>12-13 Conclusion</b>	
	<b>12 Intended Visit</b> <b>13 Greeting</b>

## Key Verses:

4-6, 7-9, 10-11