

# John's Plea To The Elect Lady

## 2 John

### Introduction:

- A. John writes to an anonymous “elect lady and her children”.
  - 1. We may not know her proper name, but we know that she had a good name. (cf. Prov. 22:1)
    - a. Had love and respect of Apostle John. (v.1)
    - b. Had love and respect of those who have known truth. (v. 1,2)
    - c. Had love and respect of relatives. (v. 13).
  - 2. We may not know everything that John wanted her to know, but know some things. (cf. v. 12)
- B. John makes a three-fold plea to this fine lady—a plea that we all need to heed:

### Discussion:

- I. John Pleads With Her To Walk In Truth and Love. (vv. 3-6).**
  - A. Modern religion tries to elevate love above strict adherence to truth.
    - 1. For years, told that “love of God” important, but doctrinal truth unimportant.
    - 2. Recent years, told that “love for neighbor” important, but moral truth unimportant.
  - B. Biblical religion makes love and truth (commandment keeping) inseparable.
    - 1. Jesus links the two together. (John 14:15,21; 15:10-12).
    - 2. John links the two together. (1 John 5:2-3; 2 John 6).
- II. John Pleads With Her To Avoid Personal Transgression. (vv. 7-9).**
  - A. Because many deceivers in the world. (v. 7).
    - 1. Deceit is sinful and sin is deceitful. (Heb. 3:12,13).
    - 2. Deceit can rob one of the reward he has worked for. (v. 8).
    - 3. Deceit is made easy by our own desires. (cf. James 1:14-18).
  - B. Because of the condition of transgressors.
    - 1. He or she is outside the boundary set by the doctrine of Christ.
      - a. It may be in things pertaining to the church—Nature, work, worship, organization.
      - b. It may be in things pertaining to godly living—marriage, general morals, etc.
    - 2. He or she does not have God.
- III. John Pleads With Her To Avoid Sharing In Another's Transgression. (vv. 10,11).**
  - A. One does not have to participate in another's error to partake of it. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:22).
  - B. One must not aid nor encourage transgressors *in their error*. (v. 10).
    - 1. Indirectly by receiving them into one's house
      - a. Does not forbid “receiving one into house” under all circumstances.
      - b. Does forbid “receiving into house” if it aids him in spreading his error.
    - 2. Directly by bidding him Godspeed.
  - C. One cannot let use love, kindness, etc. as excuse to ignore this—even publishers of NKJV recognize this. (See introduction supplied for 2 John by the publishers).

### Conclusion:

- A. Let walk in truth, avoid personal participation in error, and avoid sharing in another's error.
- B. Let us beware lest we allow our tender feelings to override our tough duty in this area.