



## The Agape

### Class 8 • 2<sup>nd</sup> John

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- 1) The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;
- 2) For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.
- 3) Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.
- 4) I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.
- 5) And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.
- 6) And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.
- 7) For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
- 8) Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.
- 9) Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.
- 10) If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:
- 11) For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.
- 12) Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.
- 13) The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

- Last week we continued to look at what God defines as a proper response to His love toward us reflected in the sacrifice of his son

*“Everyone that loves God, has to love His children - Your Brethren!”*

- And the reverse is true as well...

*“By this we know that we love our Brethren, by loving God and keeping his commandments”*

**5:3)** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

- Baptism and Breaking of Bread are the OPPOSITE of grievous
- These commandments are designed to take away a heavy load of sin
- The emblems are not designed for people who are perfect, but for sinners who are sickened by their own sins
- The Judaisers were trying to get a “grievous burden” placed on the Christians, but that is not what was necessary

**5:4)** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

- John pits “justification by faith” against the old outlook of the Jewish World
- And assures them that if you are born of God you can overcome that old world by your faith

**5:8)** And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

- The Water of Baptism and the Blood of the Memorial Emblems AND the work of the Spirit in our lives testify that we are true believers

## **1<sup>st</sup> John 2**

**1)** The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

- Who is he writing to? What “lady”?
- In the next letter, he writes,

## 3<sup>rd</sup> John 9

9) I wrote unto the church...

- So, if he is referring in 3<sup>rd</sup> John, Verse 9 to this letter (2<sup>nd</sup> John), then the “lady” that he is referring to is the Ecclesia

- It could be an actual woman, but we are going to proceed under the understanding that the letter was to the Ecclesia

**2)** For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

- “For the truth’s sake” is a lovely concept...

- There is no better binding influence than the common knowledge of (and loyalty to) the “truth which dwells in us”

**3)** Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

- Notice the subtle non-Trinitarian allusions...

- He says, “FROM God the Father, and FROM the Lord Jesus Christ” - Two different “froms” (not the normal way to speak), but emphasizes the different entities

- He says “God the Father” - pointing out the father-ship

- He actually defines Jesus as “The Son of the Father” - A very odd phrase to use, but one that clearly defines who Christ is

- I also love how he talks about “Truth and Love” - We NEED both - The academic side - Truth - and the emotional side - Love

**4)** I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

- After three verses of introduction, he now gets into the point of the letter

- Did you notice that he only found “of thy children” walking in the truth

- Apparently not all of the members were still faithful

- And what does John have to say to the tough situation facing this Ecclesia

- Nothing new at all

- Simply a steady maintaining of what had been a part of the apostolic tradition from the very beginning...

5) And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

- John returns to the same encouragement he had before

- Keep on remembering the Love Feast
- Keep on showing God's Love to each other

- "It's important, so we're going to repeat it"

6) And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

- Does this seem like circular logic to anyone else?

- Walk after the commandment
- What is the commandment?
- Walk in it
- Huh?

7) For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

- The Judaisers are deceivers

- Not that they are just confused and teaching wrong ideas
- Their purpose is to deceive

- Obviously, whoever he is talking about didn't recently "enter into the world" in the sense that they just arrived on the planet

- He is saying that they have entered into the Ecclesial world

- They were changing the basic Christian "confession" - The First Principles - (The public statement upon your baptism?)

8) Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

- The NIV is clearer:

- 8) Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

- The same simple warning should stick with us today
- Now he highlights the deceivers
- 9)** Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.
- John calls the belief in this False Doctrine to be Sin
  - If you think that Jesus is God, then you don't even have God
  - If you understand the Truth, then you have both God and Jesus
- 10)** If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:
  - The Brethren were being too "brotherly" to the Deceivers
  - John calls them what they are - Anti-Christ, and warns the Brethren not to have anything to do with them
  - The misapplication of this verse is not healthy - Discuss the problem of disfellowship in slight arguments and disagreements
- 11)** For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.
  - If they truly are trying to convert you to Trinitarianism, then avoid them!
- 12)** Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.
  - The problem seems so intense, that he really can't express it well enough in writing, and is going to make a personal visit
  - GOOD LESSON - Don't try to resolve sticky things by email! Take the time to get face to face and work things out - That you joy may be full...
- 13)** The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.
  - The members of your sister Ecclesia greet thee as well...