

2 John: Stay In The Boundaries

Personal information (1, 4):

- Writer: elder: probably age, older man
- Recipient: elect lady
 - 1 her name is 'Elect' (Eclecte)? (v.13)
 - 2 her name is 'Lady' (Cyria)?
 - 3 her name is not given
- Her children: *walk in truth*
 - John's concern – abide in doctrine / word of truth, 1 Jn.2:27.
 - Truth in action, 3 Jn.4.

I. Setting Of 2 John 9

1-4: truth

John loves them “in truth” (5x)
(love in truth: love discriminates)

- 2: *truth in us* (1 Jn.2:14, Word).
Jn.17:17.
- 4: *walk in truth* (life / conduct; not one item alone or sentimental softness).

5-6: love

Yet: 'do not receive' some (10-11)

1. We love by obedience.

John 14:15

1 Co.5

LOVE ←

motive

OBEY ←

product

2. Love: walk according to commandments (pl.); 4: in truth.

7: danger

- 'Many' deny Jesus came in flesh (1 Jn.4:2)
- John could not ignore false teaching. 1 Jn.2:26; 2 Pt.2; Ac.20:28...

8: John and his readers

"...those things..."

- Is it safe to avoid one error (v.7)?
- What do we have to 'lose'??

9: warning

Specific danger [7] → General warning [9]

'Whoever'

Gal.5:10

I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

Rv.22:15

But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

General warning (9) follows specific danger (7)

'Whoever'

1. Some 'progressives' denied humanity of Jesus.
2. If this is only way to 'go beyond'...then we are free to violate other doctrines of Christ with impunity.

Variety of warnings

'Whoever'

1. 1 Jn.4:15, 'Son of God' (2 Jn.7)
 2. 1 Co.15:33, only resurrection denial?
 3. Ga.1:6-9, only Judaism?
 4. Ja.2:1-11, partiality only to rich man?
- 2 Jn.9, does not have God (i.e., His fellowship; eternal life).

Doctrine is serious (9)

Doctrine
of Christ
2 Jn.9

**1 John
2:24-25**

**DOES
NOT
HAVE
GOD**

10-11: evil deeds (plural)

1. God requires more than merely believing that Jesus came in flesh
2. To fellowship false teachers is to go beyond His teaching (10-11)

Coming to a home
near you: antichrists!

Hospitality was a way to
spread the gospel...and error

I. Setting Of 2 John 9

II. "But Doctrine of Christ
means Doctrine 'About' Him

1. Purpose of claim

- “We must believe what NT says about Christ in flesh ... BUT ...
- We do not have to believe / obey what Christ teaches (His doctrines)”

“PREACH THE MAN,
NOT THE PLAN”!

1. Purpose of claim

2. Parallel passages

- Mt.16:6, *leaven*; 12, *doctrine* (teaching)
- Ac.2:42, apostles' *doctrine*
- Col.2:22, *doctrines* of men
- Rv.2:14, *doctrine* of Balaam
- Rv.2:15, *doctrine* of Nicolaitans

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages
3. **Proof from unbiased sources**

[No ax to grind]

- Vincent: “Not the teaching *concerning Christ*, but the teaching of Christ Himself and of His apostles...”
- ATR: “Not the teaching about Christ, but that of Christ which is the standard of Christian teaching as the walk of Christ is the standard for the Christian’s walk (1 John 2:6)...”

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages

3. Proof from unbiased sources

- Plummer: “The doctrine which he taught (John 18:19; Rev.2:14, 15) rather than the doctrine which teaches about him.”

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages

3. Proof from unbiased sources

■ Bennett: ““Cf. Jn.vii.16,17.”

Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His Who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God, or *whether* I speak on My *own authority.*”

1. Not discussing Gnosticism.
2. His doctrine is same as Father’s.
3. He connects His doctrine with doing His will.

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages

3. Proof from unbiased sources

- Phillips: “The man who is so ‘advanced’ that he is not content with what Christ taught has in fact no God. The man who bases his life on Christ’s teaching, however, has both the Father and the Son as his God.”

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages
3. Proof from unbiased sources
4. **Principles of Scripture**

2 John 9

1. **Ro.16:17:** 'Teaching is all the instruction which led them to become Christians and informed them in what true Christianity consists'
– Parry, CGT.
2. **1 Co.4:6:** Do not go beyond NT teaching.
3. **1 Co.10:28-30:** Do not do anything that encourages or implies endorsement of people in sin or error.

I. Setting Of 2 John 9

II. "But doctrine of Christ means
Doctrine 'About' Him

III. Silence of Scripture

Teaching of Christ (assumed possibilities):

1. Everything you / I believe about religion
2. A group's beliefs
3. 'Standardized church teaching'
4. Everything taught in NT
5. Everything Jesus taught in ministry;
6. In text: identity of Jesus (v.7); love.

Conclusion: v.7, who Jesus is, and love/unity.

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1. Position of most denominations. Cf.6.
2. What *is* love? Jn.14:15, 23; 1 Jn.2:3-5.
3. Which teachings of Christ may we ignore? (9)
4. What sins / errors may we fellowship? (11)

“Can you find passage that condemns instrumental music in worship?”

What condemns praying to Mary?

What passage condemns worshipping rats?

1 Th.5:21

Hb.7:12-14

A boundary (fence) provides safety

- ✦ EVEN IF someone could prove 2 Jn.9 is limited to teaching about Christ, it would not help him
- ✦ His example shows intolerance of false teaching (Mt.12:30; 15; et al.)
- 1 Pt.2:21, For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps...