



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of May 9 2021

Truth & Love

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [II John 1:1-3](#)

¹ The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ² because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

For Further Discussion....

When John wrote this letter, the Gospel was rapidly spreading & churches were multiplying through the Greco-Roman world. As he wrote this, John may be the last remaining of Jesus's twelve apostles. His greeting tells us much about how John saw himself with respect to a church that would read this letter in their gatherings.

- Why does John introduce himself as **"the elder"** (1)? Why might this **elder relationship be of great value** to this church?
- We do not know with certainty who John means by **"the elect lady and her children"** (1). However, this is likely a description of a local congregation. What does this **metaphor tell us about the heart of what it means to be a church?**
- John loves this church. Why? What **qualities** seem to **mark John's heart** for these believers (1-2)? What are some **practical ways you can strengthen the bond of love** in our church?
- Loving involves sacrifice, and we are not always strong in communicating love for the church. Is there **a risk** the Holy Spirit is prompting you to take in **practicing and communicating the love we share in Jesus Christ?**
- John closes his greeting with a blessing. **Who is blessing the church?** What precious **gifts come with the blessing?** (3)
- **Pray together** in light of this week's passage.