Introduction

While 1 John addresses the general body of believers, 2 John and 3 John are more personal epistles written to individuals. Despite their brevity (each being one chapter), they are densely packed with theological truths, pastoral concern, and ethical instruction.

In 3 John, the Apostle John writes to Gaius, commending his hospitality and generosity towards traveling ministers:

> *“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.”* — 3 John 1:2 (ESV)

This verse is widely quoted today, often without understanding its context. It is not a blanket promise to all believers, but rather a personal prayer to a man known for his faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to the truth (3 John 1:3-6). His prosperous soul was evident in his spiritual maturity and tangible service to the Church.

John’s blessing on Gaius invites us to examine whether we too

live in such a way that would elicit this kind of apostolic commendation.

The Epistle of 2 John: Who Is the “Elect Lady”?
2 John opens as follows:

> *“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 John 1:1 (ESV)

There is some debate among scholars whether “the elect lady” refers to an actual Christian woman and her literal children, or metaphorically to a local church and its members. Given the personal tone and closing remarks (v. 13: “The children of your elect sister greet you”), a strong case can be made that this is a letter to a godly woman, known to John, who raised her children in the truth.

This passage provides a framework to examine what it means to be an “elect” woman of God—chosen by grace (Ephesians 1:4-5),

living in truth, love, and discernment.

---

1. Raising Children in the Truth

> *“I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.”* — 2 John 1:4 (ESV)

The word *truth* here (Greek: *alētheia*) refers to the revealed reality of God through Christ and Scripture (John 14:6; John 17:17). The Apostle John rejoices not over achievements or status, but that this woman’s children are living according to divine truth.

This reflects the principle in Proverbs 22:6:

> *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”* — ESV

And in Ephesians 6:4, Paul commands:

> *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*

This responsibility also extends to mothers (cf. 2 Timothy 1:5), as Timothy’s faith was first nurtured by his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois.

Today, many Christian parents prioritize academic success over spiritual formation. Yet, from God’s perspective, walking in truth is the highest success.

---

2. Walking in Love

> *“And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.”* — 2 John 1:5 (ESV)

Biblical love (*agapē*) is not merely emotional affection but a self-sacrificing, God-centered, covenantal commitment. This command echoes Jesus' teaching:

> *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."* — John 15:12 (ESV)

True love flows from abiding in Christ (John 15:9-10). It's patient, kind, and free of envy or pride (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). An elect woman is one whose love is rooted in God's truth—not sentimentalism, gossip, or emotional manipulation.

John warns against mere lip-service Christianity and emphasizes practical obedience:

> *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments."* — 1 John 5:3 (ESV)

This means a woman walking in love will be prayerful, Spirit-led,

forgiving, and Christlike in speech and conduct (Galatians 5:22-23).

---

3. Guarding Against Deception

> *“For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”* — 2 John 1:7 (ESV)

In the first-century context, John was addressing early forms of Gnosticism, which denied the incarnation—that Christ came in the flesh. This is not a minor error, but a denial of the core of the Gospel (John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:14).

Today, deception takes many forms—prosperity gospel, hyper-grace teachings, motivational sermons void of repentance, and watered-down theology. John urges believers:

> *“Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.”* — 2 John 1:8 (ESV)

Discernment is not optional. Paul also warns in 2 Timothy 4:3-4:

> *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching… and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”*

The Apostle gives a stern command:

> *“If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting.”* — 2 John 1:10 (ESV)

This implies a line must be drawn between hospitality and endorsing false doctrine. Spiritual women are called to protect their homes and hearts from theological pollution.

Conclusion: The Call to Confirm Your Election

The term “elect” reminds us that salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), yet the New Testament repeatedly urges believers to confirm their election through holy living:

> *“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.”* — 2 Peter 1:10 (ESV)

For the modern woman who desires to be counted among God’s elect, the call is clear:

- Raise children grounded in the truth of Scripture.
- Walk in sacrificial, Spirit-led love.
- Remain vigilant against doctrinal error and compromise.

May you be found among those who “abide in the teaching of Christ” and have “both the Father and the Son” (2 John 1:9). And may your life, like that of the elect lady, inspire the joy of faithful apostles—and more importantly, the approval of our heavenly Father.

Amen.

JIUNGE NA GROUP LETU LA WHATSAPP HAPA >> WHATSAPP GROUP….

Share on:
WhatsApp