Intro: 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. 4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.

1. That we may know the truth

2. That we may know His love

• John is directing this to the church rather than the individual. We can apply this to the church in general. When I say the church, I am not thinking of any local church or any denomination, but the body of believers that’s in Christ. This small book has been vital for the church down through the centuries, and what is written here has been very positive in the life of the church. It may be small but it pacts a powerful punch for us today.

I. The Church has a purpose – 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*,

a. God has chosen the Church to be Holy

b. God has chosen Her to be followers of Christ

• Before time began God knew and had a plan on what the purpose of the church was going to be. The idea is, that our own works has no value, because God’s plan was before our works began. His purpose is more important than our works. As, when we become Christians, he does not choose us because of our works, so the eternal purpose regarding our salvation could not have been formed because he foreknew our works, that we would perform such works as payment for salvation. The true church will accept Christ work on Calvery and not accept man’s works for salvation.

° 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 2 Timothy 1:9

II. The Church is loved and respected – 2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

• When you love someone, you will respect them as well. If you love Christ, you will respect him, and if you love the church, you will respect her as well. The church has lost respect because people do not love her like they used to.

a. Her followers love Her in Truth

• Our love for the church is rooted in Christ’s truth. We love the church, and this is different from the love that the world displayed. The world’s love and our love for the church:

World love: Our love for the church:

° sinful passion ° passion for Christ

° is based on feeling ° is based on God’s word

° is one wealth ° our wealth is not material

b. Her followers love Her because of Christ

• The word is simple and makes this clear for all believers, Christ died for the church. Her believers are grateful and respectful for what Christ did for the church. Yes, Christ died for all, He died for the world, and He died for the church. He died for His bride.

° 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, Ephesians 5:25

° 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. John 3:29

III. The Church lives in Truth and Love – 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.

a. She lives in God’s Grace

• We think that God’s grace was just only for salvation, but the church understands that we continue to live in the grace of God daily. It’s not something we should take lightly or dismiss it so quickly.

° 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 17 For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Romans 5:15, 17

b. She lives in God’s Mercy

• That it was by the mere mercy and favor of God that He had been entrusted with the ministry of Church work, to prevent the appearance of arrogance and self-confidence, by reminding us that it is His mercy that we are where we are. He Has entrusted us to do his work, not ours, and we should be grateful to be apart of His church not ours.

° 1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 Corinthians 4:1

c. She lives in God’s Peace

• We have accepted Christ and because of that commitment we have a peace that is so hard to explain, you just must experience it for yourself. It helps us come to grips with life, it causes us to keep calm in a stormy trail and will bring us a happiness that is life changing.

° 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:7-9

IV. Her followers walk in the Truth – 4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.

• This is quite clear, those who are believers in Christ will walk in the truth of Him. There is not me and Jesus have our own thing going. No, you will walk in the light of His word, you will walk in the light of His Church, and you will do what He says if you’re going to be a Christian.

a. Somebody is watching our walk

• John may have at some time seen some of them demonstrating their walk with the Lord in public. You just never know who is watching your walk, so walk with diligence and respect of who you are representing.

° 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Galatians 5:16, 25

b. Church members will be obedient

• Our churches should make sure we model absolute integrity to the world. Never let them see you compromise truth even in little, seemingly insignificant ways. In doing this it will plant seeds in their hearts that will take root, causing them to be people who do not walk in integrity or deal with others honestly.

° 7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, Titus 2:7