

**Introduction**

**VERSES 4–11: WALK OBEDIENTLY IN TRUTH BY REJECTING DESTRUCTIVE ERROR**

**4–6: WALK IN THE TRUTH OF THE COMMAND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

**John rejoices upon seeing this church obeying truth the Father commanded (4)**

Verse 5 clarifies that the command is that given by Jesus in John 13:34–34

How can it be the command of the Father, if Jesus is the One who uttered it?

Link John 12 with John 13

**John urges this church to heed the old new-commandment to love one another (5)**

He does not charge disobeying the command to love one another, because \_\_\_\_\_

Note that 1 John 2:7–8 makes essentially the same point

Note John 13:34–35 and note the impact that obeying the command is to have

**We love God by obeying His long-standing command to love one another (6)**

Remember that truth underlies love (verse 3)

**VSS 7–11: THE WAY WE WALK IN TRUTH IS BY REJECTING DESTRUCTIVE ERROR**

**Many deceptive antichrists undermine the truth (underlying vss 4–6) by denying that Jesus Christ came in the flesh (7)**

Note the similarity with 1 John 2:18 and 4:1–3 1

John 2:18 1

John 4:1–3

Observe that these deceivers deny John 20:31

The deceivers may be deceived unbelievers or deceived believers

Their message undermines the message that gives eternal life

If Jesus were not the Christ come in the flesh, could He give everlasting life to believers?

Their message undermines the message that gives abiding

If Jesus were not the Christ come in the flesh, could He enable obedient believers to abide?

**Believers need to guard against losing a full reward by accepting the deceivers' lies (8)**

John does not speak about losing everlasting life (because it is guaranteed)

Consider John 5:24 and 6:47

Observe that it is possible to lose a full reward.

If Christians could not lose reward, this warning would not be here

Losing a full reward does not necessarily mean that a person loses all reward

Consider 1 John 2:28 (Though not recorded by John, cf. Mark 9:41 also)

John does not consider it selfish for believers to be motivated against losing a full reward. Cf. John 4:36–38; 13:8–11). (Cf. Mat 6:19–21 also)

Believers not abiding in Christ's teaching do not have God (abiding with them) (9)

Cf. John 15:1ff.

A local church should not allow anyone not abiding with Christ to be received into ministry in the church or for the church to encourage them (financially or otherwise), because that would assist evil-doing (10–11)

The elect lady and her children are a local church (not merely a household)

Local churches met in homes in the first century (cf. Philemon 2)

The home of the elect lady would be the assembled church (in a home)

I would urge caution against our personal homes being used in a way that might promote false teaching. However, I do not see a prohibition from allowing an unbeliever to enter my personal home. The passage focuses on a local church not assisting false teachers.

**FAREWELL (12-13)**

**John only discussed the most important issues in this letter, but planned to discuss in person many other issues, with the objective of mutual encouragement (in truth and love) (12)**

John's joy would be fulfilled as he saw believers walking in truth (cf. verse 4)

Their joy would be fulfilled as they walked in truth (cf. verse 4)

**The church where John stayed also greeted the church to whom John wrote (13)**

**CONCLUSION**