

God Speaks To A Christian Family

It must have been an amazing, spiritual experience for this Christian family to receive a message from an apostle of Jesus Christ. (2 John 1) The purpose of this communication was to encourage these godly people in their Christianity and also to warn them against false teaching. Second John is a very short epistle. It is one of five Bible books that have only one chapter. Obadiah is the only book in the Old Testament that has only one chapter. There are four New Testament books that contain one chapter. The one chapter books in the New Testament are Philemon, 2 John, 3 John and Jude. The brief letter of 2 John was inspired by God; it was written by John, an apostle of Jesus Christ. Let us never miss the great truth that New Testament Christianity molds a family by filling that family with truth. The changes that come in a family when they learn and obey truth are beyond what words can describe. "The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love." (2 John 1:1-3) John loved the elect lady in the truth. She was also loved by others in the same way.

Knowing the truth of God helps to build strong families – 2 John 1:1-3: Grace, mercy, and peace from God can only come to those who know the truth and live by it daily. Truth allows us to establish families God's way. Truth shows us that marriage is a covenant, a sacred bond between a man and a woman wherein they agree to become joined to one another for the purpose of establishing a permanent home. Much can be learned about marriage by observing the first marriage. It was instituted and ordained by God Himself. "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." (Genesis 2:21-25) The first couple, being male and female, shows us God's design for the family. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Genesis 1:27) John spoke of "Love in the truth." There is no better place to demonstrate love in the truth of God than within our family.

Walking in the truth blesses our family and it helps us to bless others – 2 John 1:4-6: Think what a beautiful family we can have if men would take the lead and do their best to train their children to walk in truth. (2 John 1:4-6) Godly men must love their wives, (a) Like Christ loved the church and gave himself for it, and (b) Like they love their own body, nourishing and cherishing it. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:" (Ephesians 5:25-29) Husbands are to honor their wives, understand them and treat them as the special being that they are. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." (1 Peter 3:7) Husbands must also exhibit the right attitude toward their wife as they help them to walk in the truth. "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." (Colossians 3:19) I still have faith in God's kind of family; a family that is walking in the truth!