

# The Tie That Binds

## 2 John 1-14

### Introduction:

- A. *“Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.”<sup>1</sup>*
- B. The tie that bound John to Elect Lady, her children, other Christians — love of the truth (v.1).
  - 1. “Love” misunderstood and misused by professed Christians.
  - 2. “Love” rightly understood and applied at the center of fellowship.
- C. The tie that bound threatened in John’s day by heretics — gnostics.
  - 1. Claimed wider and superior knowledge of spiritual realities.
  - 2. Claimed deeper superior love for others.
  - 3. John affirms own live, then counter’s heretical brand of love and knowledge.
- D. The tie that binds us together is tied to two important factors:

### Discussion:

#### I. Our Mutual Practice of Truth (vv. 4-6).

- A. Bound together by because of truth abiding in us (vv. 1-2).
  - 1. Truth sets us apart from world. (John 17:15-17).
  - 2. Truth comes from word of God. (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17; 4:2).
- B. Bound together both in “truth *and* love.” (v. 3).
  - 1. Danger of peace based on love without truth.
  - 2. Danger of worshiping in love (spirit) without truth. (Cf. John 4:24)
- C. Bound together by “walking in truth.” (v. 4).
  - 1. Each thrilled at other’s faithfulness (v. 4; 3 John 4).
  - 2. Each loves by walking in commandments. (vv. 4, 6; 1 John 5:2).

#### II. Our Mutual Opposition to Error (vv. 7-11; cf. Psa. 119:104, 128)

- A. Each needs to distinguish between real love and professed love (vv. 6-8).
  - 1. Every false teacher (within or without) professes love for us. (Rom. 16:17-18)
  - 2. Every corrupter of morality professes affection for us. (cf. 2 Pet. 2:18-19).
- B. Each needs to distinguish between those abiding in doctrine of Christ and those not. (vv. 9-11).
  - 1. Our attitude and treatment cannot be same toward both.
  - 2. Something wrong when closer to unfaithful than faithful.
- C. Each needs to distinguish between “progressing” and those who “abiding”
  - 1. Find enough wisdom and knowledge in Christ (Col. 2:2-4).
  - 2. Have all they need — both Father and Son — and those in fellowship with them. (1 John 1:3).

### Conclusion:

- A. We grow closer to God and each other when:
  - 1. We walk side by side in truth.
  - 2. We fight side by side against error.
- B. We drift apart from God and each other when we quit walking and fighting.

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<sup>1</sup> Sacred Selections # 656