Introduction:
A. John writes to an anonymous “elect lady and her children”.
   1. We may not know her proper name, but we know that she had a good name. (cf. Prov. 22:1)
      a. Had love and respect of Apostle John. (v.1)
      b. Had love and respect of those who have known truth. (v. 1,2)
      c. Had love and respect of relatives. (v. 13).
   2. We may not know everything that John wanted her to know, but know some things. (cf. v. 12)
B. John makes a three-fold plea to this fine lady—a plea that we all need to heed:

Discussion:
I. **John Pleads With Her To Walk In Truth and Love. (vv. 3-6).**
   A. Modern religion tries to elevate love above strict adherence to truth.
      1. For years, told that “love of God” important, but doctrinal truth unimportant.
      2. Recent years, told that “love for neighbor” important, but moral truth unimportant.
   B. Biblical religion makes love and truth (commandment keeping) inseparable.
      1. Jesus links the two together. (John 14:15,21; 15:10-12).
      2. John links the two together. (1 John 5:2-3; 2 John 6).

II. **John Pleads With Her To Avoid Personal Transgression. (vv. 7-9).**
   A. Because many deceivers in the world. (v. 7).
      1. Deceit is sinful and sin is deceitful. (Heb. 3:12,13).
      2. Deceit can rob one of the reward he has worked for. (v. 8).
      3. Deceit is made easy by our own desires. (cf. James 1:14-18).
   B. Because of the condition of transgressors.
      1. He or she is outside the boundary set by the doctrine of Christ.
         a. It may be in things pertaining to the church—Nature, work, worship, organization.
         b. It may be in things pertaining to godly living—marriage, general morals, etc.
      2. He or she does not have God.

III. **John Pleads With Her To Avoid Sharing In Another’s Transgression. (vv. 10,11).**
   A. One does not have to participate in another’s error to partake of it. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:22).
   B. One must not aid nor encourage transgressors in their error. (v. 10).
      1. Indirectly by receiving them into one’s house
         a. Does not forbid “receiving one into house” under all circumstances.
         b. Does forbid “receiving into house” if it aids him in spreading his error.
      2. Directly by bidding him Godspeed.
   C. One cannot let use love, kindness, etc. as excuse to ignore this—even publishers of NKJV recognize this. (See introduction supplied for 2 John by the publishers).

Conclusion:
A. Let walk in truth, avoid personal participation in error, and avoid sharing in another’s error.
B. Let us beware lest we allow our tender feelings to override our tough duty in this area.