



What God Has (And Has Not) Joined Together (9)

Christ and His Doctrine

2 John 9-11

Our 2026
Theme

Introduction

- Today we continue our theme for 2026, “What God has (and has not) joined together”. This theme is based on **Matthew 19:6**.
- Our last lesson addressed: Christ and His Apostles – how what they taught was equally binding to the message of Jesus.
- Today, we want to address how the “gospel” and doctrine of Christ are joined together. In other words, we want to establish that **EVERYTHING** Jesus (and His inspired apostles) taught needs to be properly applied.

The problem stated

- This lesson will be an examination of **2 John 9**.
- *Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*

The problem stated

- This lesson will be an examination of **2 John 9**.
 - 1) Some advocate that this verse applies ONLY to teachings of Jesus Himself.
 - What the apostles taught is not binding.
 - In our last lesson we proved that the apostles taught with authority, equal to that of Jesus, because it was from Him.
Cf. John 14:26, 16:12-15, Galatians 1:10-12, 1 Corinthians 14:37, etc.
- NOTE: This INCLUDED the apostleship of Paul

The problem stated

- This lesson will be an examination of **2 John 9**.
- 2) Some advocate that the doctrine of Christ refers only to certain “core” elements of the gospel – the basics.
 - As long as we agree on these elements (e.g., God, Bible is God’s word, Jesus, He arose, plan of salvation, faithfulness, etc.) that is all that matters.
 - The problem – it renders all other matters (e.g. MDR, work of the church, instrumental music, etc.) are left to discretion or personal interpretation, and thus irrelevant.
- Problem: WHO get’s to determine what is “core gospel”?

The problem stated

- This lesson will be an examination of **2 John 9**.
- 3) Some advocate that this verse applies **ONLY** to teachings **ABOUT** the life of Jesus, with some even limiting the text to the fact that it only applies to acknowledging Jesus came in the flesh.

The problem stated

- This lesson will be an examination of **2 John 9**.
- The reasoning behind such interpretations is to advocate open or extended fellowship with those who are teaching or practicing doctrinal and moral errors.
- But the Bible teaches who we have fellowship with IS important – **2 John 9-11, Ephesians 5:11, 2 Corinthians 6:14-15, 1 John 1:3, 6-7**.
- And doctrine (what is taught) matters! That IS the point of our text!

What is the Doctrine of Christ? 2 John 9

- In summary, it is the entire body of the New Testament – both what Jesus and His apostles taught with authority. It includes who Jesus is and instructions about how we are to live our.
- The word *doctrine* means “teachings”. As we use the term we are talking about what scripture says on a subject. We study what God’s word teaches and determine what is truth, both what we accept and reject.

What is the Doctrine of Christ? 2 John 9

- The “doctrine of Christ” refers to what Jesus taught with authority, including what He passed on to His apostles.
- **John 8:31-32** – what He taught is what makes us free. It was NOT just knowing ABOUT Him!
- **John 12:48** – His words will judge us in the last day
- **John 14:21** – He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.
- His teachings provoked a response – **Matthew 7:28-29, Luke 4:32.**
NOTE: The word for teachings is the same word as doctrine in **2 John 9.**

What is the Doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- Doctrine refers to what was being taught:
- **Acts 2:42** – the apostles' doctrine
- **Matthew 16:6, 12** – the leaven of the Pharisees... doctrine
- **Matthew 15:9, Colossians 2:20-22** – the doctrines of men
- **1 Timothy 4:1** – the doctrines of demons
- **Revelation 2:14-15** – the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.

Doctrine clearly implies what is being taught.

What is the Doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- Consider the context
- **2 John 1** – whom I love *in truth*
- **2 John 2** – because of *the truth* that abides in US
- **2 John 4** – your children are *walking in truth...* received *a commandment*
- **2 John 5-6** – this is love, that *we walk according to His commandments, that as you heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.*

What is the Doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- Consider the context
- **2 John 7-8** addresses the specific error – denying that Jesus came in the flesh.
- Consider: This is an APPLICATION of the PRINCIPLE of **2 John 9**. The principle is foundational!
- e.g., **1 John 4:1-2** – *test the Spirits whether they are of God*. Does this apply ONLY to the one who confesses Jesus has come in the flesh, or is it the application of a principle? Clearly it is a principle.
 - **1 Corinthians 5:4-5** – Does this only apply to one who is guilty of fornication? (**Vs. 1**)
 - **2 Thessalonians 3:6** – Does this only apply to the one who will not work? (**vs. 10-12**)

What is the Doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- Consider the context
- **2 John 9-11**
 - Whoever* – anyone!
 - Transgresses* – to go beyond (to disregard, to violate a boundary)
 - And does NOT abide* – the word for abide means to continue to dwell within. It is a word with a sense of permanency.
 - In* – a word meaning close association

What is the Doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- Consider the context
- **2 John 9-11**
the doctrine – teaching
of – in the genitive case meaning possession
(belonging to).
Of Christ – the doctrine belonging to Him, not
(just) about Him.
Does NOT have God... - is rejected by God.

What is the Doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- Consider the context
- **2 John 9-11**

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

We are to reject anyone who rejects the teachings (the PRINCIPLES) of Jesus. Not even to welcome them into our house. To do so is to share (fellowship) in his evil deeds.

Abiding in the doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- What is associated with abiding in His doctrine? Remember, abide implies a more permanent relationship.
- **John 8:31-32** – the words of Jesus – the truth that will make you free.
- **John 6:27** – the “*food which endures to everlasting life.*”
- **John 15:5** – in Him we are bearing much fruit

Abiding in the doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- What is associated with abiding in His doctrine?
- **John 15:9-10** – abiding in His love and keeping His commandments.
- **2 Timothy 3:14** – continuing in the things we have learned and been assured of
- **1 John 2:6** – walking as He walked – following His example

Abiding in the doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- What is associated with abiding in His doctrine?
- **1 John 2:10** – in the light by loving his brother
- **1 John 2:14** – His word which overcomes the wicked one and makes you strong
- **1 John 2:24** – that which you heard from the beginning. You will abide in the Father and in the Son.


Abiding in the doctrine of Christ – 2 John 9

- What is associated with abiding in His doctrine?
- **1 John 3:24** – He who keeps His commandments
- **1 John 4:16** – abides in love and in God
- **2 John 2** – he abides in truth!

Concluding thoughts

- Yes God has joined together Christ and all He taught (His doctrine).
- To be pleasing to God we must follow ALL that He has commanded us.
- We cannot pick and choose which commands are important and which are not.

Matthew 28:19-20, 7:21-23, etc.



**Are you abiding in the
doctrine of Christ?**