

Charity or treason?

2Jn 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

2Jn 1:11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

- I. The one who comes to you, is coming to teach.
“Doctrine” means “teaching,” the context here is clearly someone seeking to deceive others to his views of Christ which are opposed to that which was taught by the apostles and preserved in scripture.
- II. His doctrine goes beyond what the scripture teaches about Christ.
John is not speaking here of doctrines on which good Christians can differ and still fellowship as brothers, based on different methods of interpretation. A presbyterian brother and I may disagree on baptism. A charismatic brother may disagree with me on what it is to speak in tongues. A Lutheran brother may disagree with me on the Lord’s Supper. But so long as we are in unity on the person and work of Jesus Christ, this verse is not talking about them. Do not use this passage to justify cutting off everyone who does not share **your** doctrine, when John specifically says, “**This** doctrine.”
“Our Lord has many weak children in his family, many dull pupils in his school, many raw soldiers in his army, many lame sheep in his flock. Yet he bears with them all, and casts none away. Happy is that Christian who has learned to do likewise with his brethren.” J. C. Ryle.
- III. Do not aid such a one materially.
While Christians have always been known as those who will give to the needy; value life, personhood, and dignity; and seek to express love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance; our desire to show love and exercise hospitality ends at the point that our aid goes to abetting the war against our king. (Judges 4:17-22)
Be careful the ministries you give money to, by buying their books, music, movies, tickets to their events. I don’t even like listening to YouTube videos from the Mormon tabernacle choir because I don’t want to monetize their videos by watching their ads.
- IV. Do not aid such a one with intangible support.
Out of 74 uses, these are the only two places it is translated “God speed.” The literal translations means “rejoice” or “be glad.” But in this kind of context it has to do with a greeting.
Rejoiced – II John 1:4
Greeting – Acts 15:23, 23:26
Hail – Luke 1:28
Farewell - II Cor. 13:11

Your encouragement, endorsement, praise, promotion, or any other form of intangible support is nonetheless treason, not charity.

V. Support of any kind makes you an accomplice to the one who is seeking to destroy Jesus.

When we think of this in terms of temporal kingdoms it becomes much clearer. Giving aid and comfort to someone waging war on America is defined in the constitution as treasonous and worthy of death. (Rom. 1:32) Even if the aid is not material, in times of war, anyone who even speaks sympathetically about the enemy is marked. The Tories who were forced to flee to Canada after America won her independence, The Japanese-Americans who were put in internment camps during WWII, the rumors and suspicions about who were truly communists during the cold war. These are all stark examples in our short history of the stigma put upon someone who might be an enemy to your kingdom. (Unfortunately, we often go too far in our zeal to pick out enemies and we become like President Roosevelt, grouping our fellow-citizens in with those who are true enemies based on peripheral evidence.)

“How judicious and how cautious should the Christian be! There are many ways of sharing the guilt of other people's transgressions; it may be done by culpable silence, indolence, unconcernedness, private contribution, public countenance and assistance, inward approbation, open apology and defense.” -Matthew Henry