



The Second Book Of John

John Says To Walk In

Truth And Love

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2 John

OVERVIEW: TRUTH and love are frequently discussed in our world, but seldom practiced.

From politicians to salesmen, people conveniently ignore or conceal facts and use words to enhance positions or sell products. Perjury is common, and integrity and credibility are endangered species. Words, twisted in meaning and torn from context, have become mere tools for ego building. It is not surprising that we have to “swear” to tell the truth.

And what about love? Our world is filled with its words—popular songs, greeting cards, media counselors, and romantic novels shower us with notions and dreams of ethereal, idyllic relationships and feelings. Real love, however, is scarce—selfless giving, caring, sharing, and even dying. We yearn to love and be loved but see few living examples of real love. Plentiful are those who grasp, hoard, and watch out for “number one.”

Christ is the antithesis of society’s prevailing values, that is, falsehood and self-centeredness—for *he is truth and love*, in person. Therefore, all who claim loyalty to him must be committed to these ideals—following the truth and living the truth, reflecting love and acting with love toward one another.

The apostle John had seen Truth and Love firsthand—he had been with Jesus. So affected was this disciple that all of his writings, from the Gospel to the book of Revelation, are filled with this theme—truth and love are vital to the Christian and are inseparable in the Christian life. Second John, his brief letter to a dear friend, is no different. John says to walk in the truth and obey God (2 John 1:4), watch out for deceivers (2 John 1:7), and love God and each other (2 John 1:6).

Second John will take just a few minutes to read, but its message should last a lifetime. As you reflect on these few paragraphs penned by the wise and aged follower of Christ, recommit yourself to being a person of truth, of love, and of obedience.

THE BLUEPRINT

False teachers were a dangerous problem for the church to which John was writing. His warning against showing hospitality to false teachers may sound harsh and unloving to many today. Yet these men were teaching heresy that could seriously harm many believers—for eternity.

1. Watch out for false teachers (2 John 1:1-11)

This letter is from John the Elder.

It is written to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in the truth, as does everyone else who knows God's truth— [2] the truth that lives in us and will be in our hearts forever.

[3] May grace, mercy, and peace, which come from God our Father and from Jesus Christ his Son, be with us who live in truth and love.

[4] How happy I was to meet some of your children and find them living in the truth, just as we have been commanded by the Father.

[5] And now I want to urge you, dear lady, that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we had from the beginning. [6] Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning.

[7] Many deceivers have gone out into the world. They do not believe that Jesus Christ came to earth in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist. [8] Watch out, so that you do not lose the prize for which we have been working so hard. Be diligent so that you will receive your full reward. [9] For if you wander beyond the teaching of Christ, you will not have fellowship with God. But if you continue in the teaching of Christ, you will have fellowship with both the Father and the Son.

[10] If someone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't invite him into your house or encourage him in any way. [11] Anyone who encourages him becomes a partner in his evil work.

2. John's final words (2 John 1:12-13)

Well, I have much more to say to you, but I don't want to say it in a letter. For I hope to visit you soon and to talk with you face to face. Then our joy will be complete.

[13] Greetings from the children of your sister, chosen by God.

MEGATHEMES

THEME: Truth

EXPLANATION:

Following God's Word, the Bible, is essential to Christian living, because God is truth. Christ's true followers consistently obey his truth.

IMPORTANCE:

To be loyal to Christ's teaching we must seek to know the Bible, but we may never twist its message to our own needs or purposes, nor encourage others who misuse it.

THEME: Love

EXPLANATION:

Christ's command is for Christians to love one another. This is the basic ingredient of true Christianity.

IMPORTANCE:

To obey Christ fully, we must believe his command to love others. Helping, giving, and meeting needs put love into practice.

THEME: False Leaders

EXPLANATION:

We must be wary of religious leaders who are not true to Christ's teaching. We should not give them a platform to spread false teaching.

IMPORTANCE:

Don't encourage those who are opposed to Christ. Politely remove yourself from association with false leaders. Be aware of what's being taught in your church.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door.

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: Living Bible Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*.

Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print