

- **\*Read II John\*** The Apostle John was not one to waste words, and he, in this short letter, makes his point very clearly and very simply. Whether you take the literal meaning or "chosen lady and her children" or the figurative meaning of it being a church and its members, John is writing this short letter to remind Christians that they ought to value, love, and hold on to truth above anything else. It was after all Jesus who said that we should seek, find, and know the truth and that truth would set us free. **(John 8:32)**
- Satan is always looking to deceive humans, and the scheme of that day was for some to be teaching that Jesus had not come in the flesh, but that He was simply seen in the flesh through miraculous means (we'll talk more about that in a few minutes). Because of this assault on Jesus and the faith that many were building up in Him as having come in the flesh and dying for mankind, John is quick to remind these brethren that truth must be known and believed if they wanted to be walking in the way that God would have them walk. This evening, we will consider this short letter of John and hopefully be reminded of 4 very important things that we need to know and be reminded of when it comes to truth.

#### **4 Things We Need To Know About Truth**

##### **I. There is such thing as objective TRUTH.**

- A. Truth is truth regardless of outside factors or influences.
  1. Objective truth stands in opposition to something such as subjective opinion. Something that is subjective is left up to the interpretation or thoughts of the person while something that is objective is what it is regardless of one's interpretation or thoughts.
  2. We live in a postmodern society where it is frowned upon to declare something as being absolute truth. Many today would argue that no one can know something as being absolutely true, and that is nothing but an effort for all accountability to be taken off of the individual.
  3. If there is no objective truth then every individual would be free to do as they want. If someone called them on anything then the response would simply be "I think this to be true or acceptable." The thought of that is appealing to many, but the logical conclusion of mass chaos with everyone doing whatever they want isn't something that too many are willing to reach.
  4. We must understand that absolute objective truth does exist and we must respect it.
- B. People have always tried to either deny truth or distort the truth.
  1. While not a person, we can go back to the garden of Eden and see where the serpent tempted Eve by distorting the truth. "You surely will not die!" **(Gen. 3:1-4)**
  2. It makes complete sense for Jesus to speak about the father of lies in the same context where He talks about the importance of truth. **(John 8:44)**
  3. Satan wants humans to deny truth and live in the uncertain because in that place is where he has the greatest chance of gaining a soul to the way of darkness.

##### **II. God desires for us to walk in TRUTH.**

- A. Truth is in line with the nature of God.
  1. Jesus recognized the Word of God was truth and He prayed for God to sanctify His Apostles by that Word of truth. **(John 17:17)**
  2. This recognition of God's Word being truth was seen many years earlier by the psalmist in **Psalms 119:160**.
  3. If Satan is the antithesis of God and Satan is the father of lies, then it would make sense to understand God as the father of truth. The father of truth would be the source of a book that was full of truth.
  4. Therefore, God wants us to walk in truth and this is His commandment to us. **(v.4)** If we walk in the truth then we can be in fellowship with our God whose very nature aligns with truth. This is God's desire for all of His children.
- B. It is truth that will set us free and save us.
  1. The truth is that all men sin & in need of a Savior or else they will die in their sins. **(Rom. 3:23; 6:23)**
  2. The truth is that Jesus came to this earth and gave his life as a ransom for the souls of man. **(Matt. 20:28)**
  3. The truth is that the blood of Jesus frees us from the bonds of sin and we are free in Christ. **(Rom. 6)**
  4. The truth is that the Christian must be transformed from the inside out so that he will be good and acceptable in the eyes of God. **(Rom. 12)**
  5. The truth is that eternal life is there waiting for the faithful disciple who fights the good fight and finishes his race of faith. **(II Tim. 4:6-8)**
  6. These truths cannot be denied because they are based upon the truth that is from God's Word and we know that His Word is truth.

### **III.If we love God we will seek out TRUTH, and we will walk in that TRUTH.**

- A. Those who love themselves more than anything else will believe and teach whatever is most advantageous for themselves.
  - 1. In this context and seemingly in John's first letter, the falsehood that was being pushed was Jesus not actually coming in the flesh. **(v.7; I John 4:1-3)**
  - 2. Whatever might be gained by this false teaching, those supporting it were convinced that it was better for them than for them to understand and accept that God had come in the flesh.
  - 3. The same is true of so many today. People believe and accept that which is false because they gain something from it. Whether it is loser morals, leniency of sin, acceptance by others, family beliefs, etc. people are often willing to accept something that contradicts truth if it means something better for them.
  - 4. What do we love more? Something we perceive as better in this life or our love for our God?
- B. On the other hand, those who love God are willing to accept whatever truth is presented to them from His inspired Word. Love for God and following truth go hand in hand. **(I John 4 & the number of times love is mentioned)**
  - 1. Let's be really honest for a moment. There are some things that God sets as truth in His Word that are just really tough to swallow.
  - 2. God's demands on Divorce and remarriage are difficult for many to accept. Loving our enemies is something that goes completely against our own logic. God's plan for salvation isn't something that many people accept as truth, but regardless of what others may think...the truth of these subjects remains the truth.
  - 3. Those who want to simply follow God's truth will accept the difficult teachings on these matters and they will follow them as truth because they simply want to be accepted by God. They are willing to make sacrifices of their own desires because they simply want to be in line with God's truth because they love God. **(John 14:15)**
  - 4. God desires the humble in spirit to come to Him and give up all of themselves to Him so that He might be the guiding light and director of their lives. **(James 4:10)**

### **IV.Only those who walk in TRUTH can have fellowship with the Father and the Son.**

- A. Our fellowship with God is dependent on how we walk. Therefore, if God is truth then we must walk in truth if we want to be in fellowship with Him.
  - 1. John doesn't beat around the bush at all. He makes it very clear that if we want to have the Father and the Son then we must walk according to the teaching of Jesus.
  - 2. In other words, we must walk in the light as the light of God's Word directs us in truth. **(I John 1)**
  - 3. If we fail to walk in the light then we walk in darkness and that stands in opposition to God. It is impossible for us to walk in darkness and hold to that which is false and error and still be in fellowship with God. **(I John 1)**
  - 4. Therefore, the only way to get to God is through His Son, and if we want fellowship with both then we must abide in His doctrines of truth.
- B. Failure to accept truth and walk in it will cost that individual everything.
  - 1. John admonishes these Christians to be careful that they do not fall into the trap of error and lies, so that they wouldn't waste the great work that they had accomplished to this point. **(v.8)**
  - 2. If they or anyone else failed to only abide, follow, or walk in the truth of God then they would not have the blessed fellowship with God that we should all desire.
  - 3. The blessings of fellowship with God are not afforded to those who fail to walk in God's truth.
  - 4. But John's admonition goes even further than just what we hold to. He adds that we ought not support those who deny truth. For them it was concerning the fleshly appearance of Jesus. What might that be for us? Do we or would we be willing to support those who go against the truth of God's Word? Certainly that shouldn't be the case. We should stand up against all falsehoods that any man might present and defend the truth of God's Word.

Truth. It is the dividing line between those who follow God and those who follow self. Those who are humble and truly love God will accept truth and abide by it. Others who falsely proclaim love for God will say one thing but then behave in another way. They will not accept truth. What about us? Will we accept truth? Will we lay aside our desires in order to accept that which is God's truth? May God help us to humble ourselves and live according to the truth that will set us free.