

IN THE LIGHT

THE LETTERS
OF JOHN



February 17, 2019

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CHRISTIANS WHO LOVE TOO MUCH - 2 JOHN

1. REAL LOVE INVOLVES A BALANCE OF _____ AND _____.

¹ *The elder,*

To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—² because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:

³ *Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.*

2 John 1:1-3

Ephesians 4:15

2. REAL LOVE IS CHARACTERIZED BY _____.

⁴ *It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. ⁵ And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.*

2 John 1:4-6

3. REAL LOVE SETS _____ AND
_____.

⁷ I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸ Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

⁹ Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them.

¹¹ Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

¹² I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

¹³ The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

2 John 1:7-13

1 John 4:1-3

Fill in the blanks: truth, love, obedience, limits, boundaries

This Study Guide will help you go deeper throughout the week with daily scripture reading and questions for your own personal reflection and application. It is also designed to be used for discussion with your family, friends, and Life Group.

OPEN UP

Describe an elder person (grandparent, aunt, uncle, senior adult) who took a special interest in your wellbeing when you were growing up?

UNDERSTANDING JOHN'S LETTER

This letter is addressed to the chosen lady and her children. This chosen lady refers to the Church (the “bride” of Christ) and her children refers to all the members of the church family.

How many times do you see the word truth or teaching in 2 John? What does this tell us about what the readers of this letter might have been facing?

WALKING IN TRUTH AND LOVE (5: 1-12)

Truth is essential to John's letter but what else must always be connected to truth (2 John 1 & 3)?

Which is easier for you to do, walk in truth or walk in love? (2 John 6)

Have you ever had a relationship that had to be ended because of an overriding issue involving your faith? How well did you exercise truth and love in that decision?

In verse 8, what rewards are you looking forward to from God?

What does it mean to continue in the teaching of Christ (2 John 9)?

How would you translate 2 John 10 into a practical guideline for your life?

In what ways do we welcome these false teachers or false teachings in the church today (2 John 10-11)?

How can we respond to false teachers to uphold the truth while still being loving?

APPLY

What practical step can you take to live out the truth and love of Jesus this week?

CHALLENGE

In 2 John 12 John expresses his desire for in-person contact. Even though it would be easier to send a text or email, who do you need to contact by phone or face-to-face this week to better express truth and love (2 John 12)?

This Week's Bible Reading

Day 1 - 2 John 1-3

Day 2 - 2 John 4-6

Day 3 - 2 John 7-8

Day 4 - 2 John 9-11

Day 5 - 2 John 12-13

SOAP Study

The SOAP study method is a simple, yet powerful tool to help guide you into deeper understanding and life application of the Bible. There is a section in the Growth Binder that introduces you to this method and provides pages to help you get the most out of your personal Bible study.