

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Scripture Reading 2nd John

- *Fairest Lord Jesus*
- *Behold the Lamb*
- *As the Deer*
- Congregational reading: 1 Cor 13:4-7
- *The Power of the Cross*

Bible Quiz

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word – The letter of 2nd John, Sermon 1
The intersection of truth and love – an introduction

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

The Lord loves a cheerful giver. God's grace and provision motivate His people to give generously to His work and the needs of His Body, as He enables, not under obligation or social pressure.

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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GRACE
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
love. truth. grace.

“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”



Teaching -

Eric Peterman

The letter of 2nd John, Sermon 1

The intersection of truth and love – an introduction

- March 13^h, 2022 -

The letter of 2nd John, Sermon 1

The intersection of truth and love – an introduction

*Is the primary characteristic of Christianity truth, or is it love? On this question has fallen or risen many church movements and Christian lives. In this personal, brief letter to a church, the aged apostle makes the case that it is necessarily both, but that **true love proceeds from the truth, and truth is where love goes to find its wings.** We are reminded of the first line of the Gregorian chant Ubi Charitas. “Where charity and love abide, there God is!”*

Main Theme of the letter: Receiving, reveling in, and abiding in the truth of God in Christ is essential to maintaining brotherly love.



John makes 3 unbreakable connections between truth and love:

First, he wrote that revealed truth is an immovable rock for the believer in Christ.

Constable notes, “By the truth John meant the teachings of Christ (v. 9). This includes all that Jesus approved as God’s revelation (the Hebrew Bible, our Old Testament, and all that He taught personally and through His apostles following His ascension. New Testament)” **See Acts 1:1-2.**

He set the anchor firmly into this living rock in 5 ways:

1. in v1a, John anchors *his own love* in it.
2. In v1b, John anchors *the love of all believers*, all Christians, in it.
3. In v2, John anchors *the writing of the letter* in it.
4. In v3. John anchors *the three supreme Christian graces* in it.
5. In v4, John anchors *the lives of his readers* in it.



Second, he wrote that *love for others is the good fruit of abiding in the truth.*

1. John harmonizes and resonates with the ethical teachings of the Mosaic Law and of Jesus Christ (v5)
2. Love for others is essentially obedience to the will of God (v. 6) Obedience to God seeks out and does the best for others. This is what it means to love. When we abide in the truth (live in it, revel in it, and live it out), we will love.

Third, He warned against separating love from the truth. In his day some people were rejecting the truth but trying to hold on to love. They claimed to have progressed from “elementary” truth to “advanced truth”, *but really they had abandoned the truth* (vv. 7-9)

John outlines 4 necessary actions of the truth in Jesus Christ:

- I. **The truth generates** an exclusively believing community (vv. 1-3).
- II. **The truth demands** a Christian, biblical, all-of-life ethic (vv. 4-6).
- III. **The truth involves** propositional Christian doctrine (v. 7).
- IV. **The truth requires** unceasing Christian vigilance (vv. 8-11).

If we want to love our our brother and sisters in Christ consistently, it flows easiest and most naturally to do when we ourselves abide in the truth, when we abide in Christ. This is not automatic. It is an ongoing walk of deliberate choices. While unbelievers and non-abiding believers can and do love other people, it is hard for them to love abiders in Christ. They have less in common with us, and they often feel convicted by us. Walking in love and truth is the exclusive domain, right and joy of the elect, those who believe in and love the God of truth.

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Prayer Requests, Praises - Hebrews 4:16

- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
- Remember those who are ill or aged and cannot meet with us.
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