

Big Idea:

After wrapping up 1 John, we continue with 2 John which is very similar to 3 John. These short books are similar, emphasizing “walking in the truth” (verses 4 and 3 respectively). John stresses that truth and love must be lived out together.

Truth is not based on feelings, pragmatism, or personal opinion, but is grounded in God and His Word. Love is not merely emotion or speech, but active obedience to God’s commands.

The encouragement to “walk in the truth” also includes a warning to be watchful against false teaching, especially about Jesus.

Questions for Discussion and Reflection:

What does John mean by “abide in the teaching”? Compare to the picture of “walking in the truth”.

Why does John connect truth and love so closely?

In your life, do you find it easier to respond to conflict and difficult people with truth, or love?

What are examples of truth without love? What damage can it cause?

What are examples of love without truth? Why can that be problematic?

What areas or beliefs in your life do you need to be more “watchful” (verse 8)? What “deceivers” have been let into your life?

Why does John end by emphasizing Christian community and joy? (verses 12 and 13)? How does this connect to truth and love?