



Balancing Truth & Love

2 John

Think back. What sticks out?

Key Scripture:

v. 7 *“For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”*

Understanding the Background

- Written circa 85-90 A.D
- Christian counterfeits proliferated the early centuries of the Christian era
- Gnosticism = “knowledge”
- A secret knowledge, beyond what was possessed by ordinary Christians
- v. 9 *“runs ahead”*

Staying in Balance

- vv. 1-6

Practical Ramifications

1. Loving the Lost
2. Preaching the Gospel
 - Romans 1:16
 - Acts 17:6
3. Rejecting all False Doctrine
4. Jesus, the Friend of Sinners
 - He welcomed everyone, and turned no one away
 - What was Jesus like?
 - John 1:14 “Full of grace and truth
 - We face the same challenge today
 - We must love the sinner, while hating the sin

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son,

in truth and love

(2 John 3)

Some Questions to Ask:

As a practical way of applying this message, here are some questions we ought to ask ourselves:

1. Do I really believe the gospel of Jesus Christ?
2. In what areas of my life am I guilty of supporting that which I know is wrong?
3. Have I been silent about evil when I should have been outspoken for the truth?
4. Have I been slowly lowering my standards of right and wrong in order to maintain friendships or to gain some personal advantage?
5. Have I been dabbling in falsehood when I really need to speak up for the truth?
6. Is there a relationship in my life that needs to be broken because it is dragging me down spiritually?
7. If my friends at church could see me during the week, would they be embarrassed by the things I do and say? Would Jesus be embarrassed?

Not easy questions, but ones we need to ask.

Love must have limits. We must love people but we must not thereby tolerate false doctrine or condone moral evil. To use a familiar phrase, we must love the sinner while hating the sin. Sometimes we may appear to love the sinner too much and sometimes we may appear to hate the sin too much. Both will be necessary if we are to stand for Christ and win the lost in this evil day.

Perhaps in our tolerance we have become indifferent to truth. When it comes to eternal issues, there is no room for neutrality.



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