

Sermon: How to Love One Another

Text: II John 1:1-13 ESV

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Introduction: These last two letters II John and III John cover some of the same topics and themes. These topics cover “truth,” “loving one another,” and behavior matching what’s inside the person (spiritually).

I. The Letter Starts with a _____ (vv.1-3).

A. _____ the writer (many times)

B. Identifies the _____

II. John Both _____ and _____ the Church (vv. 4-11).

A. The Church Needs to _____ in Love (vv. 4-6).

B. Beware of _____ Teachers (vv. 7-8).

C. Correct _____ (Orthodoxy) Is Important (vv. 9)

D. Do Not _____ with the False Teacher (vv. 10-11)

III. _____ Is Very Important (vv.12-13).

A. Some Encounters Need to Be _____ to _____ (v. 12).

B. We Are in This _____ (v.13).

Conclusion: Church should never be a casual relationship. We dare not allow heresy and false teachers access to our assemblies. John Stott observes, “If John’s instruction still seems harsh, it is perhaps because his concern for the glory of the Son and the good of men’s souls is greater than ours, and because ‘the tolerance on which we pride ourselves’ is in reality an ‘indifference to truth’” (*The Epistles of John* [Eerdmans])

If the church at Ephesus could have listened and obeyed John, they might still be meeting today. Sadly, though they are not. We must learn from them and do better!

II John 1:1-13 ESV

Greeting

1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, 2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

Walking in Truth and Love

4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. 5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we[a] have worked for, but may win a full reward. 9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Final Greetings

12 Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete. 13 The children of your elect sister greet you.

Footnotes:

[a] 2 John 1:8 Some manuscripts *you*