

6. Read vs. 8. What is there to lose, and can we avoid losing it?

7. Read vs. 9. Should this verse be used to measure if someone is truly a believer? Why and how could it be used?

8. Read vs. 10-11. How should you react when Jehovah Witness or Mormon missionaries come knocking at your door?

TAKING IT HOME

Reread vs. 5-6 and reflect for a few moments on the level of priority you've given to loving people in your life recently. Have you given it the priority it deserves?

Do you think you need to make any changes? If so, what are they?

While right doctrine or right theology is important, historically love for fellow Christians has often been sacrificed in the name of right doctrine. If your faith were evaluated based upon your love for other Christians, how would you measure up?

Following God's Commands

The books of 1, 2 & 3 John are written by the disciple John, as well as the gospel of John and Revelation.

*Today, we'll look at **2 John 1-11** where John focuses on the importance of walking in Christ's commandments; being obedient, marching to God's orders.*

v. 1-4 There is such a thing as truth!

- John is referring here to the truth of _____, the truth found only in _____.
- John uses the word truth _____ times in these 4 verses.
- When you walk in the truth you order your life by the _____ of God.

v. 5-6 One of the great commandments God gives us all through this book of 2 John is to love one another.

- John's words for us to love one another is nothing new, "*I am not writing to you a new command, but one we have had from the beginning.*"
- As Christians, we should be known by our love.
- This command to love one another first appeared in _____
- We can show love by avoiding prejudice and discrimination, by accepting people, by listening, giving and serving.
- _____ God's command is to love others is not enough, we need to put it into _____.
- "*And this is love: that we walk in _____ to his commands.*"

Community Group Homework

For the week of May 17, 2009

v. 7- 11 Watch out for deceivers.

- In John's day these false teachers were Gnostics, saying that _____ was superior to virtue and reasoned that Jesus could not have been both _____ and man.
- The deception starts with not acknowledging _____ as Lord.
- Here in v. 7 John goes as far as to say that _____ can be the anti-Christ, which is actually true.
- John goes on to tell us to be careful not to lose what we have worked for, have learned, have built your _____ of faith on.
- When we don't continue in the teachings of Christ, we get _____ of ourselves.
- John further issues a direct _____ against people we associate with that teach anything other than Jesus as Lord.
- He literally says in v. 10, "*do take him into your house or welcome him*" and "*anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.*"

Conclusion:

By acknowledging that Jesus is the truth, we will be able to love others, follow his commands and recognize deception.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your sermon notes, was there any particular point or passage of Scripture that most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

MY STORY

1. Who is one of the most loving people you know? How do they show their love to you and others?
2. Can you think of a time when you saw love change another person's life? If so, please describe the circumstances and the changes that took place.

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read 2 John 1-3. Why do you suppose John mentions "*truth*" so many times in these verses?
4. Read vs. 4-6. How is Biblical love related to our trust and obedience to God ?
5. Read vs. 7. Do we still have these kinds of deceivers today? If so, could you name any group or organization they belong to?