

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION**Truth or Consequences****2 John**

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.” 2 John 3

Day 1: Read 2 John 1–4.

1. List all the phrases in which the word “truth” appears in these four verses. How do these phrases contrast with the ways our culture talks about truth?
2. What does John say is the basis of love of believers one for another? (vs. 1)
3. Who is the full expression and embodiment of truth? (Jn. 14:6; Eph. 4:21)
4. How does John assure his hearers as well as believers through the centuries that truth dwells in them? (vs. 2; Jn. 14:15–17; 16:13)

Day 2: Read 2 John 1–4.

5. What does John mean when he commends believers for “walking in the truth”? (vs. 4) What are they clinging to on a daily basis? Pull some nuggets out of the following verses.

Jn. 8:32–34

Jn. 14:6–7a

Jn. 15:26; 16:13

Jn. 17:17; Jn. 8:31

1 Jn. 1:6–7

6. In verse 3 John employs a three-part greeting that could almost be taken as a benediction coming from the heart of God. Next to each word, detail some of the divine blessings under girding each.
 - a. Grace (Jn. 1:14; Eph. 2:4–9)
 - b. Mercy (Titus 3:4–6; Heb.4:16)
 - c. Peace (Jn.14:27; Jn. 16:33; Eph. 2:14–18)
7. Why do you think that John links both truth and love together as being at the core of Christian fellowship? What might Christian relationships look like if one of these is missing?

Day 3: Read 2 John 1–6.

8. In verse 5, John restates a familiar message of his. What is it? How has this been a challenge for you?

9. In verse 6 John distances the concept of love from mere subjective feelings. What does it entail to “love”? How does this emphasis fit with John’s concerns for truth? (vss. 1, 2, 4)
10. If you have become discouraged because your ‘truthful’ love for others is weak and faint, what do you need to remind yourself of? (Jer. 31:3; Gal. 2:20; 1 Jn. 4:19)

Day 4: Read 2 John 7–13.

11. Verse 7 springs the main concern of John’s letter: what unwelcome element has entered the church? What specifically is the false teaching of the “deceiver”?
12. How can we know if someone is a false teacher? (vs. 7; 1 Jn. 4:2–3)
13. What’s the big deal about errors in the doctrines about Christ-come-in-the flesh? (vss. 8–9)
14. Why must false teaching be nipped in the bud? Do we have any similar false teachings floating about in our day?
15. What is the fascination that lies behind the impulse of one “who runs ahead” (vs. 9)? (See also Acts 17:21; Gn. 3:1–6.) Conversely what is the promise to those who remain steadfast in the truth? (1 Jn. 1:3; Heb. 7:25)

Day 5: Read 2 John 1–13.

16. There is an expression that says, “If you invite Satan to dinner, do not be surprised when you find out that he has brought his pajamas with him.” How does this fit with John’s warning about embracing deceiving teachers? What might the unsuspecting Christian end up doing? (vs. 11) (Hint: In the days of John, to take a teacher into one’s home was to show implied appreciation for his teaching.)
17. Is John being inconsistent to exhort the lady to “love” (vss. 5–6) and then to exhort her not to let into her house false teachers (vss. 7–11)? Where is the clue in verse 6 that loving is not inharmonious with being uncompromising when it comes to truth?
18. How does John’s insight help you to sort out some “truth versus love” issues in your own relationships? In what areas must your love become more aligned with truth? In what areas must your insistence on truth become more aligned with love?
19. Take a moment to pray for your church and the church at large—that God would protect them from false teachings, encourage them with the richness of his love, and that they would remain faithful to the truth.