

Be a Lover and a Fighter

2 John

Read 2 John

Two main topics:

1. Love (**v.1-6** and **v.12-13**)
2. Dealing with heresy (**v.7-11**)

Title: “Don’t be so nice” - some think love is just being nice and ignore heresies because.....can’t we all just get along?

Alternate title: “Be a lover and a fighter” – we need to do both

1. Love One Another - **v.1-6, 12-13**

a. How love is being demonstrated, **v. 1-4**

1. John – being responsible to lead and to pastor
2. Role – qualifications of the role of elder in the church – but these should be a qualifications of every man as he matures in his relationship with Christ

a. **Titus 1: 9** - holding fast to teach and refute

b. **Titus 1:8** – be hospitable

- i. Knows family members – he is demonstrating the relationship he has with other believers

1. v. 4, v. 13

2. Letter addressed to Lady and her children

- a. Intergenerational - love entire church – all who are gathered for praising and worshipping God

b. We had a related discussion at Men’s breakfast – we want to

minister to all – not focus on one group in particular and then have “leftovers” for other groups

- ii. Wants to see people face to face – **v.12** – see his heart – doesn’t want to be sitting in an ivory tower writing letters to them
 1. Similar to 3 John and letter to Gaius
 2. Similar to Paul, read endings and beginnings
 3. Similar to Peter. Ends 1 Peter “kiss of love”
 4. Learned it from Jesus: John 4:7
Samaritan Women
2. Chosen lady – there has always been discussion as to whether this is an address to the church in general or to a specific lady – I believe it is to a specific lady because of references to her children
 1. Role: Mother - **v. 4** - your children walking in the faith – she has demonstrated love in her role as her mother
‘**Some**’ - probably means those that are already out of her house
3. God – greatest demonstration of love – **v.3** -
 1. Role:
 - a. Source of grace, mercy and peace
 - i. Note the order - right order for our salvation and our life – starts with God’s gift of changing our heart - *grace* – and then flowing from that grace is *mercy* – we don’t get what we deserve because of our sins – and then as we understand who God is - we can have *peace* now and forevermore
 - b. Role of Father and Jesus Christ the Son of the Father

Jesus knows the Father and reveals the
Father -

“in truth and love”

Setting up the importance of Jesus for later

b. Love Decreed - v. 5

1. Not a new commandment, but one from the beginning

1. **John 13:34-35**: Jesus gave the new commandment to
love one another (disciples of Jesus)

a. Greek word is not new in time, but new in kind

i. Ex. I got a new car (but it is really a used
car – just new to me)

b. Jesus not saying new in time because command
was in OT

i. **Leviticus 19**

c. New in emphasis: love based on relationship in
Christ

2. Commanded to love

1. How do you command to love? Husbands, ever try that?

a. Because it must be more than an emotion, more
than a feeling

c. Love defined - v. 6

1. Two parts:

1. Obedience

a. **“according to”** - means domination over us and a
continuing process. Not out for a nice short
wandering walk, but going and continuing in going
according to the set out, established plan.

b. Repeated twice in same verse – **“we walk
according to His commandments”** and **“that you
should walk in it”**.

2. His commandments - Truth referenced in v. 4 –
“walking in truth”

- a. Truth is a key word for John - mentioned 21 times
- more than in other gospels (Luke 3 times,
Matthew 3 times, Mark twice)
- b. **1 John** – mentions truth 8 times in five chapters
- c. **John 17:17**: Jesus prays to God: “**Thy word is truth**”

Transition: Do you love this way? Do you expect love to be demonstrated by the church in this way? Or looking for sentimental Christianity (feel good Christianity that makes us happy)?

First focus of letter - loving one another....moves to second focus of this letter....

- 2. Fight for the faith – **v. 7-11** – John focused on what we are called to do –
 - there are many people who get caught up in beating down everyone else’s theology who doesn’t hold to biblical Christianity and forget that we are called to be obedient to the truth and to love one another
 - don’t go to quickly to deceivers without focusing on what we are called to do and loving one another by walking in the truth
- a. Deceivers - **v. 7**
 - 1. “Many” – all every NT letter deals with deceivers - this will not be an isolated, occasional problem – it wasn’t then and it isn’t now
 - 2. Contrast with the truth – truth versus the deceiver – stark contrast – absolute opposites
 - There is truth and there is deception – this is not a sliding scale of any sort – John is very specific
 - 3. Key topic: Who is Jesus? - primary focus of any deceiver who has ever been or who will ever come along in the future – this has always been the battle
 - Theological term: Incarnation
 - 1. Christ – not his last name – His title – He is fully God
 - 2. Not in the flesh - fully Man
 - 4. Define cult/religion
 - 1. Some said Jesus was a deceiver (**John 7:12**)

5. How to combat deceivers?
- Discernment (v 8)
 - Doctrine (v9a)
 - Division (v 9b)
 - Disassociation (v 10-11).

b. Discernment - v. 8

1. **“Watch yourselves”**- very specific command
 - Be engaged – understand what is going on – don’t walk in your spiritual life in a lackadaisical manner
2. God gives us a motivation to exercise our discernment: **“that you do not lose what we have accomplished , but that you may receive a full reward”**
 1. Not your salvation, but your rewards - that would be contrary to what he wrote in **1 John**
 - a. Now: peace and a fruitful team ministry;
 - i. Note the word **“we”** – joint effort – as a church – as a group of believers – not because we are great but because God has allowed this to happen
 - ii. **Galatians 4:11** - Paul concerned about his ministry being in vain – concerned with another heresy – legalism – this is also what John is referring to here
 - iii. Pastors care about you– they want us to grow together
 1. Elders and pastors must give an account - **Hebrews 13:17**
 - b. Future: **“full reward”** - in heaven the crowns we will lay down for Christ’s glory and honor – not earning salvation but the full reward of joy of having served Him.

c. Doctrine - v 9a

1. “Go too far and not abide in teaching of Christ”

1. Word “teaching” is a Greek word where we get the English word ‘doctrine’
2. Going too far – most cults/deceivers – beyond what is in the scriptures – new ideas of salvation
2. Doctrine matters: That is why Men’s ministry is studying the book “*Bible Doctrine*”
 1. Opposite also dangerous - not going far in understanding
 - Minimizing to focus on just a few parts
 - If God said it – it is important!

d. Division - v.9

1. Who has God? Not just an insignificant difference of opinion
2. There are only two groups: With God or without God
3. Notice that those who follow Christ’s teaching have “**both Father and Son**” (God) – key understanding of who is Christ – Son of the Father – one with the Father yet fully man to die on the cross
 1. Further proof that Son and Father is God.

e. Disassociate - v. 10-11 – gets difficult here

1. Contrast with **Heb 13:2** - Show hospitality to strangers – this is not conflicting with this – we do need to show hospitality to strangers
2. These deceivers are not strangers – they are known false teachers – don’t just sit under a teacher – know what he teaches – if you don’t what they believe and teach, find out!
3. Complete dissociation
 1. Need to understand the context of time – there were no hotels so people stayed in homes. Preachers would travel and John is telling them to not open their homes. Don’t

even give them a greeting. In today's context it may be more like don't give your money too, don't support...

4. Consider this story of John in which he followed his own words:

John and the early church took this very seriously according to one recorded story. John discipled Polycarp, who disciple Irenaeus. In the famous book written by Irenaeus called *Against Heresies*, he tells a story that Polycarp told him: Apparently John was in a public bath house when a man named Cerinthus went in. John ran out, saying, *"Let us flee, lest the building fall down; for Cerinthus, the enemy of the truth, is inside!"*

How do we deal with deceivers? We need to have discernment, we must know our doctrine, we need to recognize that there is division and we have to be willing, even, to disassociate.

3. Conclusion

Dr. Al Mohler, Jr, October 2005 article in TableTalk Magazine "The Cults and Theological Judgment":

"This serves to remind contemporary Christians that J. K. Van Baalen [early 1900s] was right — the cults are "the unpaid bills of the church." Churches that surrender in the face of philosophical challenges, that reduce their doctrinal substance to minimal doctrines, and that fail to offer substantial theological arguments grounded in Scripture, leave their own members in a state of vulnerability to the cults and their arguments. Theological immaturity and doctrinal ambiguity represent an open invitation for cults old and new to proliferate."

One of the most important ways to show love to one another is to help one another know the Truth and obey it. John said in **v. 6**, **"This is love, that we walk according to His commandments."**

Thank God for Pastor Miller, who faithfully preaches that from this pulpit, and the other elders and leaders of San Tan Bible Church.

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