

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship
January 17, 2024 | “The Truth about Love” | **2 John 1–13**

Five Truths about Love from 2 John:

- 1) Love _____ with God’s _____ towards us
(1–3)

- 2) Love _____ obedience to God’s _____
(4–6)

- 3) Love _____ a clear _____ of error
(7–8)

- 4) Love _____ those who _____ the gospel
(9–11)

- 5) Love _____ fellow _____ with joy
(12–13)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

Count up the number of times “truth” is mentioned in 2 John. How many times is “love” mentioned? Why are these terms repeatedly mentioned in this book? How do they relate to one another? What other terms are repeated in this book, and what is their significance?

Craig Blomberg says, “Popular culture – in literature, music, advertising, and the visual arts – uses the word love to mean just about everything except what the Bible means by it.” How is love misunderstood in our culture? How do you counter false understandings of love in your conversations with people?

According to 2 John (especially verses 4–6), what is the relationship between love and obedience? What are the commandments of God that we are expected to obey?

Interact with the following quote from Warren Wiersbe: “Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy.” Give some examples of truth without love. Now give some examples of love without truth. Is it possible, biblically, to love someone truthlessly? Is it possible, biblically, to be unlovingly truthful?

John says in verse 8, “Watch yourselves.” What are we supposed to watch out for? What are the consequences of falling into doctrinal error concerning Christ?

John says in verse 9, “Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.” What does it mean to “go on ahead” and not abide in Christ’s teaching? Are you abiding in Christ’s teaching? What are some practical ways that you daily and weekly “abide” in Christ’s teaching? How can you grow in this?

Why is “loving one another” so important to John (see John 13:34-35; 15:12-17; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7-21; 2 John 5)? Who are the “one anothers” that we should love? Is it possible to truly love Jesus and not love “one another”? Why or why not?

Advanced Question:

John Stott says, “Unbelief can be as much a mark of spiritual maturity as belief. We should avoid both extremes, 1) the superstition which believes everything and 2) suspicion which believes nothing.” What are some superstitions about Jesus that we should “un-believe”? How do we discern between truth and superstition?