

“We BE... In Truth & Love”

2 John 1:4-13

August 21, 2016



INTRO: **It's good to come home from war!**
 Trojan Horse... parallels Spiritual Warfare...
 We caught the Trojan Horse!

Show series graphic again... DEFINITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

BOOK / Series Theme:

***HIS Truth & Love are to Gird, Guide & Guard
Christ's Church!***

**Lovers & Liars have ONE thing in common...
*their relationship with Truth that defines them***

CONTEXT:

1. Continuation of 1st John “ministry”
 - a. Define & Defend the Church!
 - b. Beliefs & Behaviors are like roots & fruits
 - c. Beware the wolves!
2. Contemporary of 3rd John “ministry”
 - a. Another “postcard epistle”
 - b. Truth & Love...
 - c. Doors open too much vs. not enough
3. Early Church... late 1st century... Apostle John...
 - a. Writing from Ephesus...
 - b. In the context of Revelation ch.2&3
 - c. Writing to a woman or a church... not the issue.

1:1-3 We BE... In Truth & Love

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.*

Truth & Love
Define, Develop, & Deploy the Church

I. Truth & Love DEFINE the Church

Jesus put it best...

"If you love Me, you will obey My commandments." – Jn 14:15

Love is truth's treasure! - JDP

Truth & love complete each other... - JDP

The Bible, the Word of truth...

God is the "God of truth" ([Ps. 31:5](#); [Isa. 65:16](#)),

God abounds in truth ([Ex. 34:6](#))

God always speaks the truth ([2 Sam. 7:28](#); [Titus 1:2](#))

Christ IS the truth ([John 14:6](#); [Eph. 4:21](#))

Christ is **full of truth** ([John 1:14](#))

Christ **revealed the truth** ([John 1:17](#))

Christ **spoke the truth** ([John 8:45-46](#))

The Holy Spirit is **the Spirit of truth** ([John 14:17](#); [15:26](#)[16:13](#);
[1 John 5:6](#)).

Salvation comes from faith in the truth...

Believers are sanctified by the truth ([John 17:17](#))

Believers **love the truth** (cf. [2 Thess. 2:10](#))

Believers are **set free by the truth** ([John 8:32](#))

Believers **worship in the truth** ([John 4:23-24](#))

Believers **speak the truth** ([Eph. 4:15](#), [25](#))

Believers **manifest the truth** ([2 Cor. 4:2](#))

Believers **obey the truth** ([1 Peter 1:22](#))

Believers are **guided by the truth** ([Pss. 25:5](#); [43:3](#))

Believers walk in the truth

By CONTRAST...

Satan is the "*father of lies*" and liars! (**John 8:44**)

See 1 Corinthians 2:14 & 2 Corinthians 4:4

Unbelievers are universally:

"*men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth*" (1 Tim. 6:5),

"*oppose the truth*" (2 Tim. 3:8)

"*turn away their ears from the truth*" (2 Tim. 4:4)

In a world of lies, **the church is called to be the**

"pillar & support of the truth"

(1 Tim. 3:15).

II. Truth & Love DEVELOP the Church

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*

Truth is the well-spring of love... - JDP

*It is their common belief in the gospel truth
that unites all believers.*

QUOTE: *We can have no real communion with those who reject the truth of the gospel, since we share no common spiritual life with them. Such people are outside the fellowship of believers, because it is only those who "have in obedience to the truth purified [their] souls" who can have "a sincere love of the brethren" ([1 Peter 1:22](#)).*

III. Truth & Love DEPLOYS the Church

the Father's Son, in truth and love.

John 14:15

John 17:17-21

John 20:21

“As the Father has sent Me, so now I send YOU!”

1:4-6 *Walking In Truth & 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.*

5X “commandment” = Refining & Applying TRUTH

“walking” = OBEYING!

1:7 *Wanting Worldly Truth*

& Love

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.*

A word about “antichrists”

Qt: John MacArthur: “Antichrists who infiltrate the church and mingle among true believers, attempting to (hurt and) destroy by spreading lies and deceptions, are clearly identifiable by three (3) primary characteristics:

- 1. They DEPART the faithful... *breaking koinonia***
- 2. They DENY Christ’s fullness... *lying & minimizing***
- 3. They DECEIVE God’s family... *confusing & abusing***

Contextual Quotes from our 1st John series (late 2013):

“There is nothing tentative or apologetic about 1 John. The apostle John does not hesitate to call certain classes of people liars, deceivers, or antichrists. He supplies tests by which everybody can be sorted into one or other of two categories. According to their relation to his tests they either have God or have not; know God or do not;

have been born of God or have not; have life or abide in death; walk in the darkness or in the light; are children of God or children of the devil. This dogmatic authority of the writer is seen particularly in his statements and in his commands.”

- John Stott

“Like any (God-honoring) pastor, John could not stand idly by when his people were being assaulted by the satanic lies of false teachers. Responding to the serious crisis threatening the churches under his care, the apostle sent them this letter to help check the deadly plague.”

- John MacArthur

“The forceful simplicity of its sentences, the note of finality behind its utterances, the marvelous blending of gentle love and deep-cutting sternness of its contents, and the majesty of its ungarnished thoughts have made 1 John a favorite with Christians everywhere. The plainness of language makes it intelligible to the simplest saint, while the profundity of its truths challenges the most accomplished scholar. Its grand theological revelations and its unwavering ethical demands have left their enduring impact upon the thought and life of the Christian Church. First John is indeed a singular, irreplaceable gem among the books of the New Testament.”

- D.E. Hiebert

“1 John shows that humanity can be divided, ultimately, into ONLY two groups... the children of God & the children of the devil (3:10). No other classification is possible.”

- New American Standard Commentary

1 John 3:10 = “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

1:8 *Warning In Truth & Love*

⁸ *Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.*

1:9-13 *Warring the Wicked For Truth & Love*

^{9a} *Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.*

VERMONT battle-field...

^{9b} *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,*

"Dark hates light like wrong hates right" – JDP

"Religious DOing always attacks righteous BEing" - JDP

God's Word says: **Somebody's LYING!**

Lips speak for the head...Lives speak for the heart. - JDP

¹¹ *for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*

Truth is the cornerstone of the Church... upon which the Lord builds His believers.

***Consequently...
truth is the number one target
of the enemy.***

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.*

Agape (both vertical & horizontal) is God's gift to us, and our gift to give away - Agape is the fuel of faith & fertilizer of koinonia. - JDP

Psalm 55:21

“His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.”

5 Giant slayers

“People of Precedent & Promise!”

Let's Pray!