

Truth & Love's How, What, & Who

2nd John 1:4-6

November 17, 2019



INTRO:

- What comes to mind when you hear “**LOVE**”???
- **What things are compatible & incompatible...???**
- How do you feel about someone demanding love

CONTEXT:

- A. God’s Word... not my opinion!
- B. Uniting the exhortations of Hebrews & 2nd John
- C. John – “the apostle that Jesus loved...”
- D. Writer of 5 New Testament books...
 - a. Gospel of John: Christ’s coming & crucifixion...
 - b. Revelation: Christ’s coming again & closure
 - c. 1st, 2nd, 3rd John: Christ’s Church & God’s children
- E. 2nd John today... requires 1st & 3rd John context...
- F. 2nd John = T & L Gird, Guard, & Guide God’s Church!
- G. 2nd John 1:1-3... T & L Define, Develop, & Deploy “us”

BIG IDEA: Walking in God's truth and love is to be celebrated, confirmed, commanded, clarified, commissioned, & championed by His Church.

PREVIEW:

- A. Celebrated
- B. Confirmed
- C. Commanded
- D. Clarified
- E. Commissioned
- F. Championed

I. Truth & Love are **CELEBRATED**

(4a-b)

***"I rejoiced greatly** to find some of your children walking in the truth..."*

- A. See the **Celebration** *"I rejoiced greatly..."*
 - a. **Reality** of rejoicing 2&3 John v.4
 - b. **Responsibility** behind rejoicing: 1 Thess. 3:8-9
 - c. **Relational** rejoicing: 1 Thess. 2:8

B. *What makes YOU rejoice greatly?* 2 Cor. 11:28

- *"I"* = personal & relational!
- *"rejoiced"* = celebrated, expressing active joy
- *"rejoiced greatly"* = celebrating zealous joy

QUOTE: Joys Particular to Discipling

God richly rewards the many costs of disciple-making, and also laces disciple-making with remarkable joys, which make all the unavoidable costs worth it. God holds out unique pleasures when we empty ourselves, at depth and length, for the spiritual well-being of others.

Paul writes, “What is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy” (1 Thessalonians 2:19–20). Naturally, we would not have expected him to say it like that. What is Paul’s hope or joy or crown of boasting at Jesus’s coming? The Thessalonians are his glory and joy. How can this be? What about Jesus himself?

What makes discipling worth the cost is that those in whom we invest become, in a real and God-glorifying sense, our glory and our joy. And such sweet-tasting fruit from our investment is not in competition with our joy in Jesus, but is itself a kind of completion of it. Those whom we disciple are not the enemies of our joy in Christ, but an expression of our joy in him.

- Desiring God

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” - 3 John 4

No greater joy.

II. Truth and Love are **CONFIRMED**

*“I rejoiced greatly **to find** some of your children walking in the truth...”*

- A. See the **Confirmation** *“...to find...”*
- B. See the **Children** *“...some of your children...”*
- C. See the **Commitment** *“...walking in the truth...”*

➤ *“to find”* = to see, experience, realize, confirm...

*“Finding is the fruit of looking...
and looking is the outcrop of loving!”* - JDP

- *“some”* = note the fact that it’s not “all”
- *“some of your children”* = your family or flock

- *“walking in”*
 - Learning, Loving, & Living-in...
 - Saying, Serving, & Sending in...
 - Worshipping, Working, & Witnessing in...
 - BEing... God’s true faithful, following, family!
 -

- *“walking in the truth”*
 - What does “walking in the truth” mean?
 - **HEAD**
 - **HEART**
 - **HANDS**

- The **FACTS** per God & God's Word
 - The "Flow"
 - 1 Design
 - 3 Divisions
 - 5 Disciples
 - 7 Details
 - 12 Disciplines
 - 24 Distinctives
- The **FAITH** per God & God's Word
 - The "Fundamentals"
 - The Foundations
 - The Framework
 - The Facts
 - The Fight
 - The Faith
 - The Family
 - Forever!
- The **FAMILY** per God & God's Word
 - *Loving UP, IN, and OUT*
 - The 24 Missional Family Distinctives:
 - Responding to grace

VIDEO: *Piper on Grace & Obedience*

- Repenting of sin
- Trusting the Bible
- Obeying God's Word
- Growing in Christ
- Living Spirit-led

- Praying for guidance
 - Following by faith
 - Dying to self
 - Picking up our cross
 - BE-ing the Church
 - TRULY loving one another
 - Equipping the saints
 - Exemplifying supernatural unity
 - Serving as ambassadors
 - Discerning matters shrewdly
 - Worshipping God vertically
 - Experiencing Him horizontally
 - Proclaiming the Gospel (no matter what!)
 - Fishing for men
 - Making disciples-warriors
 - Winning spiritual warfare
 - Loving our King
 - Serving His kingdom
- *“walking in the truth”* = the facts, faith & family
- Learning **God’s Word, Will, & Ways!**
 - Loving God’s Word, Will, & Ways...
 - LIVING God’s Word, God’s Will & God’s Way

*Walking in God’s Truth is **BEing** God’s Church.* - JDP

III. Truth & Love are **COMMANDED**

(4b-5)

*"I **rejoiced greatly** to find some of your children walking in the truth...*

*Just as **we were COMMANDED** by the Father.
And now I ask you dear lady – not as though I were writing you a new **COMMANDMENT**, but the one (**COMMANDMENT**) we have had from the beginning...*

➤ **This passages raises some key questions:**

- A. What is A command/commandment?
- B. What is THIS specific command/commandment?
 - a. *"that we love one another!"*
 - b. Koinonia
 - c. John 17 prayer
 - d. Homothoomadon
- C. WHO is the COMMANDER? Answer: God the Father
- D. WHEN was this command given?
 - a. "the beginning"
 - b. The present (in 2nd John & throughout the Bible)
 - c. The future (perpetual living & loving)
- E. WHO are the commanded?
 - a. The elders
 - b. The elect
 - c. The children
 - d. The family of God
- F. What are the conditions?
- G. What are the consequences?

- This passage reveals some eternal implications
 - The elect are exceptionally blessed...
 - Lineage is no guarantee of love or life...
 - Truth and love are not “options”
 - God & His Word “command” truth and love
 - Truth & love have always been God’s Law!
 - Galatians 6:2... T&L are “the Law of Christ”
 - Truth & love validate salvation (John 14:15)
 - Truth in love defeat deception (Eph. 4:15)
 - Walking in T&L is witnessing to Christ
 - God takes truth (5X), love (4X), commands, walking/obedience very, very seriously!

T/S: *Clarification* “**THAT WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER**”

- ~ Great Commandments
- ~ John 3:36

VIDEO: *Paul Washer & Truth of the Gospel*

- ~ John 13:34-35
- ~ John 14:15
- ~ John 17 prayer
- ~ 1st John 2:6
- ~ 1st John 3:18
- ~ Revelation 2-3 (Laodicea)

IV. Truth & Love are **COMMISSIONED**

*“I **rejoiced greatly** to find some of your children walking in the truth... Just as **we were COMMANDED** by the Father. And now I ask you dear lady – not as though I were writing you a new **COMMANDMENT**, but the one (**COMMANDMENT**) we have had from the beginning – that we **LOVE** one another.*

And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments...

- A. **Declaration** (*“THIS is love...”*)
- B. **Definition** (*“that we WALK...”*)

V. Truth & Love are **CHAMPIONED**

*“I **rejoiced greatly** to find some of your children walking in the truth... Just as **we were COMMANDED** by the Father. And now I ask you dear lady – not as though I were writing you a new **COMMANDMENT**, but the one (**COMMANDMENT**) we have had from the beginning – that we **LOVE** one another.*

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.

- A. **Duration** (*“from the beginning...” = going on indefinitely...*)
- B. **Dedication** (*“that you should walk in it...”*)
- C. **Discipleship**

CLOSE:

*** See examples of God's faithful followers "walking in" the truth and love of God's commands and commandments.

- > See Abraham walking "wherever" by faith
- > See Moses walk through the Red Sea by faith
- > See Esther & her love of her countrymen
- > See Elijah & prophets of Baal...
- > See Elisha & his frightened servant fight by faith
- > See Zacheaus & his changed heart
- > See Stephen & his bold preaching
- > See Philip & his heart to "plant"
- > See Paul & his death-defying love
- > See all of Hebrews ch.11 living & dying by faith....
- > See Peter walking on the water by faith!

➤ *Walking in truth & love defines, describes, defends, develops, & deploys the Church!* - JDP

VIDEO: *So, what is Koinonia?*

T/S: See the 5 C's supernatural relationships...

- Acts 1:8
- **Matthew 28:18-20**
- Mark 16:15
- **JOHN 20:21**

Let's PRAY!