



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# Living in Truth and Love ' Introduction

Bible Reading: 2 John

## I. Incontrovertible Evidence for the Johannine Community

A. Of the 4 Gospels, only John has Incontrovertible Evidence of a Gospel Community

1. John's Letters (1, 2, 3 John) as Evidence
2. The Theory of 'Gospel Communities' behind the 4 Gospels
3. Evidence Strong for a Johannine Community vs Weak for Synoptic Gospel Communities

## II. Author

- A. An eyewitness ' 1 John 1:1-3
- B. Calls himself 'the elder.' 2 John, 3 John
  1. A description, not necessarily a position.
- C. Same author as the Fourth Gospel
  1. Words and ideas resemble those found in the Fourth Gospel
  2. Early church fathers ascribe the same author to both the Fourth Gospel as the three letters
- D. Time of writing

## III. Recipients of the Letter

- A. Member of churches in fellowship with the author (John)
- B. Probably in the area around Ephesus

## IV. Connections with the Gospel of John

## V. Understanding the letters in relation to John's gospel

- A. Reading John's gospel helps to understand these letters.
- B. Similar words and ideas can be found in both
- C. However, they are not always equivalent

## VI. Background

- A. Some believers have left the community (secessionists)

- B. There has been a distortion and or misunderstanding of the NT gospel
- C. The conflict in John's letters is a Christian conflict not a conflict with the Jews as in John's gospel.
- D. John's letters are more pastoral than polemic

**VII. Purpose of the Letters**

- A. Warning about those who go beyond what was given at the beginning ' 2 John 9-10
- B. Keeping the believers orthodox and rescuing them from confusion
- C. By knowing God
- D. Giving Assurance regarding:
  - 1. God's testimony about Jesus
  - 2. living in truth
  - 3. their relationship with fellow believers
  - 4. the command to love
  - 5. the Spirit's testimony to Christ