



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: 2 John 1-13

Check with each other how you are doing.

2 John 1-13

1 The elder: To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth—and not only I, but also all who know the truth— 2 because of the truth that remains 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 Son of the Father, in truth and love.

4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, in keeping with a command we have received from the Father. 5 So now I ask you, dear lady—not as if I were writing you a new command, but one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. 6 This is love: that we walk according to his commands. This is the command as you have heard it from the beginning: that you walk in it.

7 Many deceivers have gone out into the world; they do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves so that you don't lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 Anyone who does not remain in Christ's teaching but goes beyond it does not have God. The one who remains in that teaching, this one 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 home, and do not greet him; 11 for the one who greets him shares in his evil works.

12 Though I have many things to write to you, I don't want to 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 send you greetings.

Sermon Summary:

In this short letter the writer encourages the recipients to continue to walk in truth and love. Truth and love must go together, without truth our love might be merely sentimental, without love our walking in truth may be harsh and uncaring. Truth and love need to go together to be properly balanced.

This letter also addresses those who have left and do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. They go beyond the teaching of Christ; adding things to the truth as well as subtracting from the truth. John warns them not to receive or greet them. This may sound harsh but, in that day, to receive and greet indicated that you not only approved of them but also that you joined with them in their "evil works." John was doing his utmost to protect the church from leaving the truth. This should be a warning and encouragement for us to remain in the truth.

Discussion:

1. Read 2 John 3. Many NT letters begin with this greeting of grace, mercy and peace. The writer adds that this grace, mercy and peace is in truth and love. What might be the reason he adds this phrase?
2. John warns the believers about deceivers who have gone into the world. Why is he so concerned about the deceivers?
3. What is the message of the deceivers?
4. How is one to determine if a person is a deceiver or not?
5. What does it mean to "remain in the teaching" in verse 9?
6. What are ways for us to remain in the teaching?
7. What does it mean to not receive or greet a deceiver in that day as well as today?