



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# Remaining in the Teaching of Christ

Bible Reading: 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.

## A letter to a church – the “lady and her children”

### Living in Truth and Love – vv. 3-6

- *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.*
- A. Knowing the truth
1. Truth refers to Christ in whom we remain
  2. Truth refers to the real condition and need of people
- B. Walking in truth and love – v. 6
- *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.*
- C. Truth and love go together
- D. Grace, mercy and peace are with us in truth and love – V. 3

## Warning about deceivers – vv. 7-11

- A. Deceivers, antichrists – those who do not confess Jesus Christ coming in the flesh
- *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.*
- B. Watch out for the deceivers – v. 8
- *8 Watch yourselves so that you don't lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward.*
- C. The deceivers “go beyond” (addition) and “do not remain (abide) in” (subtraction) the teaching of Christ – v. 9
- *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.*
1. “Teaching of Christ” (subj. or obj genitive?) – ‘Christ’s own teaching’ or ‘teaching about Christ’?
  2. Going beyond and not remaining removes oneself from relationship with God – “does not have God”
  3. Examples of “going beyond” and not remaining in the teaching of Christ
- D. Remaining in the teaching of Christ
- Remaining in ‘his words’ – John 15:7 “If you remain in me and my words remain in you...”; Col 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”
1. Adding could be the first step to not remaining (subtracting)
- E. Do not receive them – v. 10
- *10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, <sup>11</sup> for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*
1. Do not receive them into your house
  2. Do not greet them
  3. The one who greets them takes part in their evil works
  4. Should we give hospitality to or welcome unbelievers?

## Final greetings – vv. 12-13

- A. Desiring to see them face to face – v. 12
- B. Conveying the greetings of the church of which he himself is a member – v. 13