

TRUE CHRISTIAN CHARACTERISTICS

1 John 2:3-17 (John 3:1-15)

What are some of the often misguided caricatures of Christian characteristics that we see online, in the movies, or on TV?

READ 1 JOHN 2:3-17

1. How is it that Christians can know that they have come to know God (v. 3)? Does this mean that Christians are not really saved by grace alone?
2. This passage is structured around three 'claims' (vv. 4, 6, 9):
 - a. What do each of these claims tell us about the kind of false teaching that John is writing (at least in part) to correct?
 - b. How does John respond to each in turn?
3. In verse 5, what do you think it means for God's love to be made 'complete' in us (c.f. 4:12, 17, 18)?

4. How can the command that John is writing be both old and new at the same time (vv. 7-8)? John 13:34 may help to remove some of the confusion.
5. What are the different messages that John has for the various groups in verses 12-14. What role do these verses play in the overall flow of John's message?
6. What does John mean when he speaks of 'the world', and why are we warned not to love it? How does John's Gospel (esp. passages like John 1:9-11 and 18:15-16:4) add to our understanding of the concept?

Application:

- What are some practical ways that you and your group can love one another this week?
- In which areas of your life do you feel the pull of 'the world' most strongly? How can we help one another to long for lasting treasures of the world to come over the fleeting pleasures of this life?

Pray that we would be a church community marked by obedience, integrity, love, assurance, and hope.