

2 JOHN 1-13 Loving in the Truth

There's a knock at your door and two friendly strangers from the Jehovah's Witness want to talk to you about their views. They seem sincere. What's your next step, and why?

Read 2 John.

1. Make a note of every reference to 'truth'.

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2. 'The lady chosen by God and her children' (v1) and 'the children of your sister, who is chosen by God' (v13) are John's poetic references to two churches. What is John's love for them, and their love for one another, built on?

3. What is John's joy based on?

Have you ever experienced the joy that comes from 'finding someone walking in the truth' of the gospel? Or the sadness from the opposite situation? Share this with your group.

4. What is the 'command' John refers to? Also see 1 John 2:4-7; John 13:33-35

5. What is 'love' (v6)?

Love is central in obeying Jesus. But here's the problem. How do you both walk in love, and show discernment about the truth? That's the issue John addresses in verses 7 to 11.

6. What risk do the believers face in verse 8?

7. As we'll also see in 3 John, this was a time when travelling teachers circulated from town to town, relying on free board and lodging from church people to keep spreading their teaching.

What practical instruction does John give his readers in verse 9- 11?

How might this apply in your home in the 21st century?

How might this apply in our church?

8. It's common these days to reduce the teaching of Jesus to 'love' and then reduce 'love' to 'tolerance' and 'tolerance' to 'agreeing with everything'. So, anyone who disagrees with (for example) same-sex marriage is branded intolerant, which is unloving, which is unchristian... How does John's emphasis in verse 1-4 help balance this?

How does John's focus in verse 7 help balance this?

9. What's the crucial factor between true teaching and false teaching? Also see 1 John 2:22-23, 4:1-3, 4:13-15

10. For many Christians these days, discerning true teaching from false teaching seems to have a low priority. How do you react to John's warning in verse 11?

John says 'Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God.' How can you make sure you continue?

Pray for the Bingara Mini Mission 30/10-1/11, pray for new people to church.