



SERIES: LESSONS ON THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US

Lesson #12:- “Love Remains Pure”

2 John

Announcements and opening prayer. (Stress the need to contact those who have missed more than 2-3 weeks. Let's build our groups this year!)



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What are some examples of brilliant people with great head-knowledge but very little heart knowledge?

George Bernard Shaw author, playwright, and Nobel laureate, won an Oscar. He was born in Ireland and lived in London. A Socialist supposedly fighting for the working class. During World War 2 Shaw said, “We need to have a yearly review of all people before a panel where they present the purpose they serve society and the earth. Anyone who does not fulfill some purpose for living would forfeit their right to live. It keeps the earth pure and just makes sense.” The ends justifies the means is a powerful force for driving heartless ideas. Here was a genius without a heart.

Transition: How do people gain vast amounts of knowledge and end up without compassion? How do we get yoked to worldly ways while holding God's knowledge within our heads?

The Bottom Line: Love will not allow us to be unequally yoked. Love moves what is in our minds into our hearts and causes our actions to be saturated with the love of Christ.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

Questions:

*How is it possible for someone to walk in truth and yet not walk in love?

*What do you think of when you think of being unequally yoked?

Read 2 John 1-6

John calls himself ‘The Elder.’ Elder can mean the office of Shepherd or an elderly man. Since John is an apostle and over many churches, it is most likely he is using the title to simply state this is from the elder apostle who may have been one of the few alive by this time. John is still looking after all the churches.

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Question: What are the 7 churches John would write to a few years later when he was in exile on the prison island of Patmos?

The churches were Smyrna, Pergamum, Ephesus, Thyatira, Laodicea, Sardis and Philadelphia. As you can see, John's influence is used by Jesus to teach throughout Asia Minor.

1. Who did John write to in his first letter?

2. To whom is the Apostle John writing this second letter?

3. Who do you think that lady and her children might have been?

Obviously, all Christians would not know one lady who is called chosen and her children. Why would there be this one chosen lady? The best explanation is that John was writing in cryptic (crip - tick) language, a code. In Revelation John refers to the rider on the white horse riding with a sword coming out of His mouth. This was a picture of Jesus. The early church would have quickly recognized that cryptic language. This was a time of severe persecution. The Roman emperor, Domitian ruled from AD81-AD96 when he was assassinated. He was cruel and the persecution against Christians was excessively violent. It is very likely that the chosen or 'elect' lady would refer to the bride of Christ, the church. Her children would be the Christians. This would protect those who might be caught with the letter.)

4. Look at verse 13. Who sends the lady and her children greetings?

5. If the chosen lady is a specific church and her children are the member, then who is sending them greetings?

The reference is likely from another church and its members. This was necessary language for the early church in these latter days of severe persecution upon any who boldly profess Christ as Lord in the Roman Empire.

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- ⌚ How does that use of cryptic language still happen in some parts of the world today?
- ⌚ Why wouldn't they just be bold for Christ and use His name?
- 6. John makes the statement in his opening address, “...whom I love in the truth.” What does truth have to do with his love for the church and the Christians he is addressing?
- ⌚ Why are there times or instances when there is a lack of love among Christians?
- ⌚ How does this lack of love relate to the Truth living in us?
- 7. Does that seem strange that John would say he has great joy because SOME of the children are walking in truth?

John obviously keeps current on the health of the church and the believers. Some of them have probably become lazy while others have been deceived as we learned in the first letter and in this one as well. However, if John focuses on the negative, how will those walking in Truth feel? Great leaders focus on the positive to encourage others to a higher standard. If they focus on the negative, they bring everyone down and hurt the church more than help it. There is a time to focus on what is good and move on with building the church.

- ⌚ How does this relate to churches today, including our church?

Read 2 John 7-13

- 8. We learned in the first letter that those who teach against Jesus as Messiah are antichrist. There were people within the church who had accepted Jesus and then turned against Him

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and were teaching their lies. What warning is given to the Christians, probably focused on those who are not seriously walking in the Truth?

9. What relationship were they to have with people who tried to teach against Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior?

One commentary gave this illustration: A navy commander who had access to military secrets sold them to the enemy. He was caught and sentenced. Reporters interviewed the man's father. The father replied that his son, whom he loved, had betrayed his country and now had to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The father, in this case, separated himself from his son and regarded him as a fellow citizen who had broken the law. John points to a person who no longer continues in the teaching of Christ, who denies Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, the only way to the Father. They enter a home for one purpose, to destroy the Christian's faith. Christians should love but John warns against allowing false teachers to get close to you and lead you and from Christ. They are of the evil one now.



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: **How does this teaching relate to us today?**



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13).