

2 John: Walking in the Truth (Pt. 2)

[2 John 1:7-13](#) - May 2, 2021



Introduction

Love doesn't give us license to do as we please. God's love is founded in truth. God's truth enables us to live out the commands God gives. We are called to love one another, but John gives a warning that there are deceivers who will take try and take advantage of that love. John lovingly gives eyes to the church to recognize these false teachers.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Read & Discuss

Read [2 John](#)

John wants the church, the bride of Christ, to recognize deceivers amongst them. He gives them four things to look for to spot an impersonator. He says to look at their numbers (vs. 7). He says *many* have gone out from them. Second, understand how they present themselves. They came from within the church and left to go out of the church, into the world. They were stealth. They were imposters. They looked like Christian brothers, but they weren't. That's concerning! However, these deceivers likely knew where their allegiance was. How can we recognize counterfeit from the real thing? We have to immerse ourselves in knowing Christ. He is the way, the *truth*, and the life. How much time do you spend in a week cherishing Christ over other things filling your schedules? Can we truly say we know the truth *this* well? The good news is Christ stands willing and ready if we but come to Him. He has given us everything we need by His Spirit and through his written, revealed Word. Thirdly, we can recognize deceivers because they will not continue in the faith (v. 9). A deceiver leaves the teaching of Christ to make it more palpable or more appealing for itching ears. How can we protect ourselves and our families from this type of teaching that can be ever so subtle? We should always listen to teaching with an open Bible in hand. ([2 Thess. 5:21-23](#)) Lastly, we can know a deceiver, because they will not firmly claim or believe that Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man. They do not confess the coming of Christ in the flesh (v. 7) There are no other religions that confess this. Our foundation is built on Jesus. Nothing else will last. Are you struggling to comprehend this doctrine? Knowing God should be difficult to comprehend. Deceivers tend to put God in a box. However, we must take God at His word. Are you currently plugged into your church family enough to learn and even disciple others in who Christ is? Take some time this week to pray and think through ways you can do just that. Our church is a means of God's grace to protect us and to nurture us in the Christian faith until our Lord calls us safely home.

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to John 6:22-71 "The Words of Eternal Life"
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