

When Less Is More

(2 John)

- Introduction:
1. 2 John is another short postcard written by John to an individual.
 2. In this case, a lady who was a member in a local church and who was well-known and loved for her practice of the truth.
 3. In this short postcard, John reminds us of the balance involved in the Christian life.
 - a. A love for truth and a hatred for error.
 - b. A belief in truth and the practice of truth.
 4. Keep this need for balance in mind as we listen to John's instructions to this Christian woman.

I. We Must Know the Truth

- A. (2 John 1-3).
- B. (John 8:32).
- C. Consider the claims of agnostics.
- D. (Isaiah 5:20).
 1. Abomination - gay.
 2. Adultery - affair.
 3. Fornication - love.
 4. Murder - the right to choose.
 5. Suicide - dying with dignity.
 6. Lying - misinformation.
- E. Do we know the truth or just take someone's word?
 1. Elijah or Elisha (2 Kings 2:11).
 2. Esther and Mordecai (Esther 2:7).
 3. David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17).
 4. Wise men at the birth of Jesus (Matthew 2:11).

II. We Must Walk in the Truth

- B. John commends the "elect lady" and her children for "walking" in the truth.
- C. It's not enough to know the truth, we must live it out.
- D. Christianity isn't theoretical; it's practical.
- E. It isn't experienced in the pews, but it is lived out in our homes and neighborhoods.
- F. Our culture doesn't value truth like it once did and like God does (Prov. 6:16-19).
 1. Ills. of man who lied when we were going golfing.
 2. "Lying is universal - we all do it; we all must do it. Therefore, the wise thing is for us diligently to train ourselves to lie thoughtfully, judiciously; to lie with good object, and not an evil one; to lie healingly, charitably, humanely, not cruelly, hurtfully, or maliciously." (The Reformer).
 3. "Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am what is true...Love expressed in kindness hides

some truths (facts) that are better hidden than revealed. Truth can be 'bent' because love is kind. But be very careful that you have the right motive, the greater good." (The Examiner)

4. "The Day America Told the Truth" - 91% lie regularly.
- G. (Revelation 21:8; Romans 3:8).
- H. We must live out truth in our lives.
 1. (James 1:22).
 2. Burger King & 11 cents.
 3. Purity & Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders.

III. We Must Oppose Error

- A. (2 John 7-13).
- B. There are deceivers in the world (v. 7).
- C. Even the saved can be deceived and lose what they had worked for (v. 8).
- D. The way to protect yourself from deception is to remain in the truth (v. 9).
- E. The way to protect others from deception is to render no assistance to false teachers (vs. 10-11).
- F. One of the greatest challenges for Christians today is to hate truth as much as we love God.
 1. (Romans 12:9).
 2. (Romans 1:32).

- Conclusion:
1. This brief postcard reminds us of the balance between knowing and doing truth and opposing error.
 2. Not only must we be advocates of truth, but we must also be exposers of error!