

That You May Know — 2 John 1:1-13

In this letter John is writing to a group of believers and encouraging them to continue to walk in truth and be obedient to what God has called them to. He warns them not to fall for the false teachers or also allow themselves to be deceived and fall away. He gives them a warning and some practical ways to not fall into this dangerous trap. He concludes the letter with a show of his heart towards the believers and how much he loves them.

Discussion questions — *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. John points out that he loves these believers in truth and that not only does *he* love them but other believers should, and do, love them as well. The typical greeting points out the grace, mercy, and peace that come from God the Father and from Jesus Christ. How does grace, mercy, and peace that comes from God lead us to love other believers? What tends to disrupt the love among believers and how is that related to the grace, mercy, and peace of God?
2. John “rejoiced greatly” to find believers walking in the truth as commanded. He was celebrating the steps the believers were taking to grow in their obedience to the truth and the gospel. What do you tend to rejoice over? What are some ways that you can rejoice about believers in your life who are taking the steps to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? Who is someone right now that you can celebrate and rejoice over because they are walking in the truth?
3. Walking in the truth to love one another is not a new commandment but when we love we will walk according to his commandments. How have you “made substitutes” for loving others? (e.g. try to learn more, serve more, scripture memory, etc.) We tend to all believe we are loving, and we find ourselves being the standard. What can we do to “watch ourselves” and not neglect the commandment of God?
4. There is a caution and warning that is given to watch out for the false teachers who do not believe Christ has come in the flesh. We are told not to support their ministries and be careful not to be associated with them to have the appearance of supporting them. In this case John is most likely writing to a church meeting in a house and making sure they don’t allow the teaching to be taught in the home. In a culture of hospitality, it was important to allow people to stay with you and show hospitality. John is telling this group of believers to not give them a platform. He is not saying we shouldn’t evangelize or reach out to non-Christians but we should not allow their message to be spoken as gospel. Who are some false teachers that are prevalent in our culture today? How do they typically

make their way in front of the lives of believers? What should we watch out for and how may we avoid them?

5. John closes the letter showing his deep personal love for the believers and we see the importance of the relationship among believers. It is a familial type of love. John wanted to talk face to face. How might the church today grow in its relationship among believers? What are the obstacles the church faces that hinders real love with one another? How might the gospel help us remain and grow in love and unity with one another?