

# CAN'T SAY IT ENOUGH -- WALK IN LOVE

Sunday, July 10, 2022 -- 2<sup>nd</sup> JOHN series -- Msg 4 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

2<sup>nd</sup> JOHN 1:4-6

English Standard Version (ESV)

*1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in **truth**, and not only I, but also all who know the **truth**, **2** because of the **truth** that abides in us and will be with us forever:*

***3 Grace, mercy, and peace** will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in **truth** and **love**.*

***4** I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the **truth**, just as we were commanded by the Father. **5** And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that **we love one another**. **6** And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.*

## 1) Notice the emphasis on TRUTH and LOVE.

The salutation (vs 1-3) ends with this inseparably linked duo.

**Verses 1-3** are unmistakably emphasizing the massive importance of staying in the truth.

**Verses 4-6** reveal the fundamental indicator that a church or an individual are in the truth... LOVE.

See **1 John 2:9-11**

*9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

Remember 'darkness' = without the truth.

\*\*\*So, if you have the truth, you will walk in love.\*\*\*

## 2) Notice the brutal honesty -- some are walking in truth, but others are not. vs 4

*I rejoiced greatly to find **some** of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.*

- Just because you are 'in a church' does not automatically mean that you are in God's salvation.
- Some people were in this specific church and they were not in Christ.
- *What is the difference?* They were not walking in the truth.

You can attend church Sunday after Sunday, decade after decade and die without Christ.

### • What does it mean to 'walk in the truth'?

- it means coming to know the truth (the reality of Christ, salvation, God's Word)
- it means coming to believe the truth (John 3:15; 5:24; 19:35; 20:31; 1 John 5:13)
- it means coming to obey the truth in your daily life (John 14:15, 21; Luke 6:46; Matt 7:21; James 1:22)
- it means becoming more like Jesus in the way you live
- it means showing and speaking Christ's salvation to a lost and broken world

- Remember -- this is addressed to a church (*the Lady*) vs 1, 4 & 5 (corporate)  
with its church members (*her children*) (individual)

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### 3) Notice the shift to emphasis on the great foundation of **walking in love**. vs 5

Like *walking in the truth*, this is a command, not a suggestion. (ἐντολή -- *entolé* -- used 4 times)

- This command is nothing new and it is supremely important.

It is found as the basis of all instruction in the Old Testament:

#### **Deuteronomy 6:5**

*You shall love **the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

#### **Leviticus 19:18**

*You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the Lord.*

#### **Matthew 22:37-40**

*37 And Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 **On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.**”*

- This command is not vague or oblique. It is straight-forward and practical.

#### **1 John 3:17-18**

*16 By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

### 4) We must **FIGHT** to walk in love!

- We must recognize that all key relationships are under attack.  
[husband/wife, parents/children, church family, work life, community, nation, world]
- We must fight our selfish flesh, our worldly culture and Satanic schemes.
- We must protect our greatest witness → our genuine love for one another. John 13:34-35

### 5) We must **WORK** to walk in love!

- Serve in our homes and church. Pull our weight/share the load. Help build and protect.
- Return to regular, generous, humble hospitality in our homes.

### 6) We must **GROW IN GRACE** to walk in love!

#### **2 PETER 3:17-18**

*17 You therefore, beloved, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18 **But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*