ORDER OF SERVICE

October 16, 2022

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Message — **Wayne Braudrick**
Worship in Giving

Love Rejoices in the Truth

2 John 1-6 — *Love In Action Series*

Life Change: We walk in truth and love

"Walk this way."

John the Elder sets the pace

The "elect lady" walks the walk

Walk in the truth **1-4**

You connect truth to the best love

The neglect of this epistle throughout the history of the church has been unfortunate because no letter more beautifully balances the twin Christian graces of "love" and "truth." John loves this community personally and devotedly. As a good elder his heart is knit to theirs This is not mere sentiment and emotion. Truth is the framework, the principle, that guides and gives genuine meaning to his expression of love. In the absence of truth, true love is not present. John knew that both love and truth are essential and not optional.
– Daniel Akin, 1, 2, 3 John

Walk in the truth **1-4**

You know the truth

You count on what remains

You find peace in the truth

You boldly take in and put out truth

Walk in love **4-6**

You line up affections with God's truth

You obediently choose truth-love

The test of love is obedience to God's commands, and the test of obedience is whether one "walks in love." The argument is intentionally circular. Love of God that does not result in obedience to the Word of God cannot be the love that is God's gift in Jesus Christ…[For example] Hatred of one's Christian brother can never be defended as obedience to God. It is rather obedience to and gratification of one's own sin – one's own evil nature (cf. 1 John 3:12).
– Glenn Barker, 2 John

A self-evaluation:

(con't from other side)

How did you find us?

- ☐ Online Ad ☐ *All the Difference* ☐ Website
- ☐ Family _____
- ☐ Friend _____

Are you a member of another church?

Name _____

Location _____

- ☐ I am new in the community

Do you already have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure. I'd like to know more.

I/we made a decision today:

- ☐ To place my/our trust in Jesus Christ
- ☐ For a deeper commitment to Christ
- ☐ To be baptized
- ☐ To learn more about joining this church

Names of those making this decision:

_____

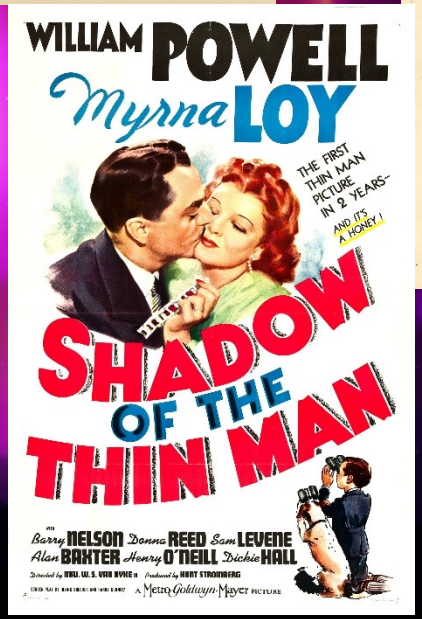
Prayer Request / Praise

Your request will be added to our Email prayer chain unless specified otherwise (below).

- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL (Staff and Elders only)

LOVE IN
ACTION
PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

courtesy MGM



courtesy MGM

2 John

[1] The elder: To the elect lady and her children, whom I
love in the truth—and not only I, but also all who know
the truth—[2] because of the truth that remains in us and
will be with us forever. [3] Grace, mercy, and peace will be
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[4] I was very glad to find some of your children walking in
truth, in keeping with a command we have received
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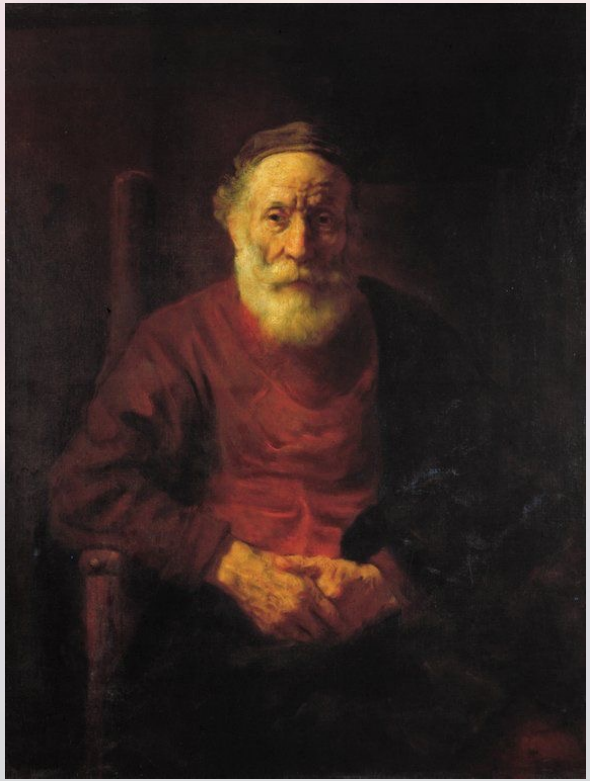
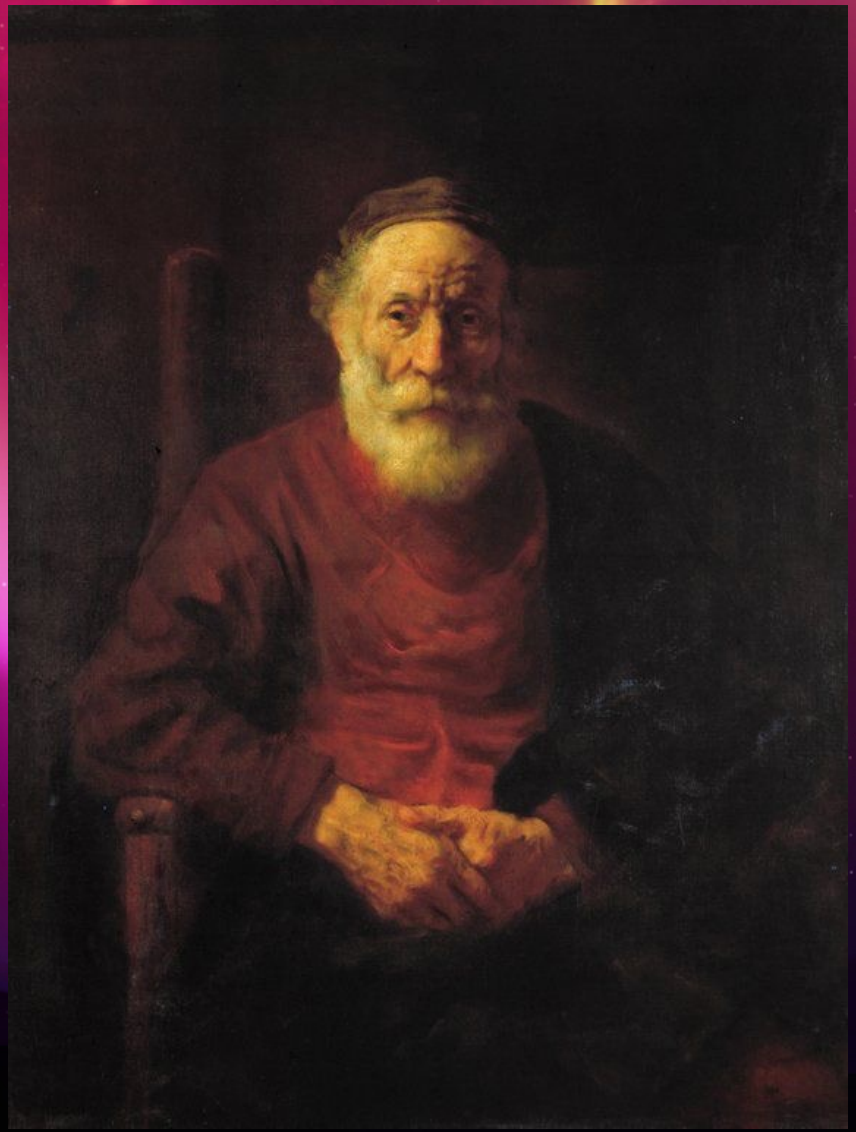
Greek: πρεσβύτερος presbyteros = originally, a completely positive term for an old man; later, member of a board of trustees



courtesy The Hermitage



Portrait of an Old Man in Red
Rembrandt
1652-4

courtesy The Hermitage

courtesy map.com

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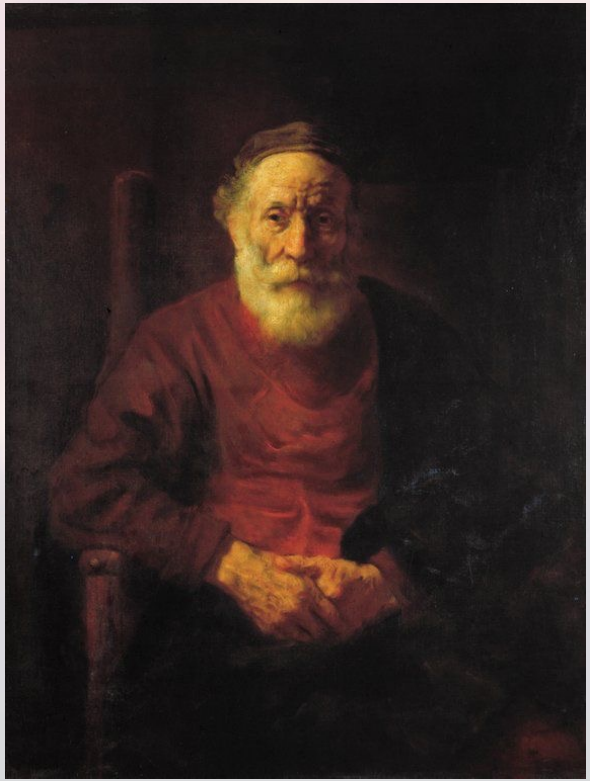

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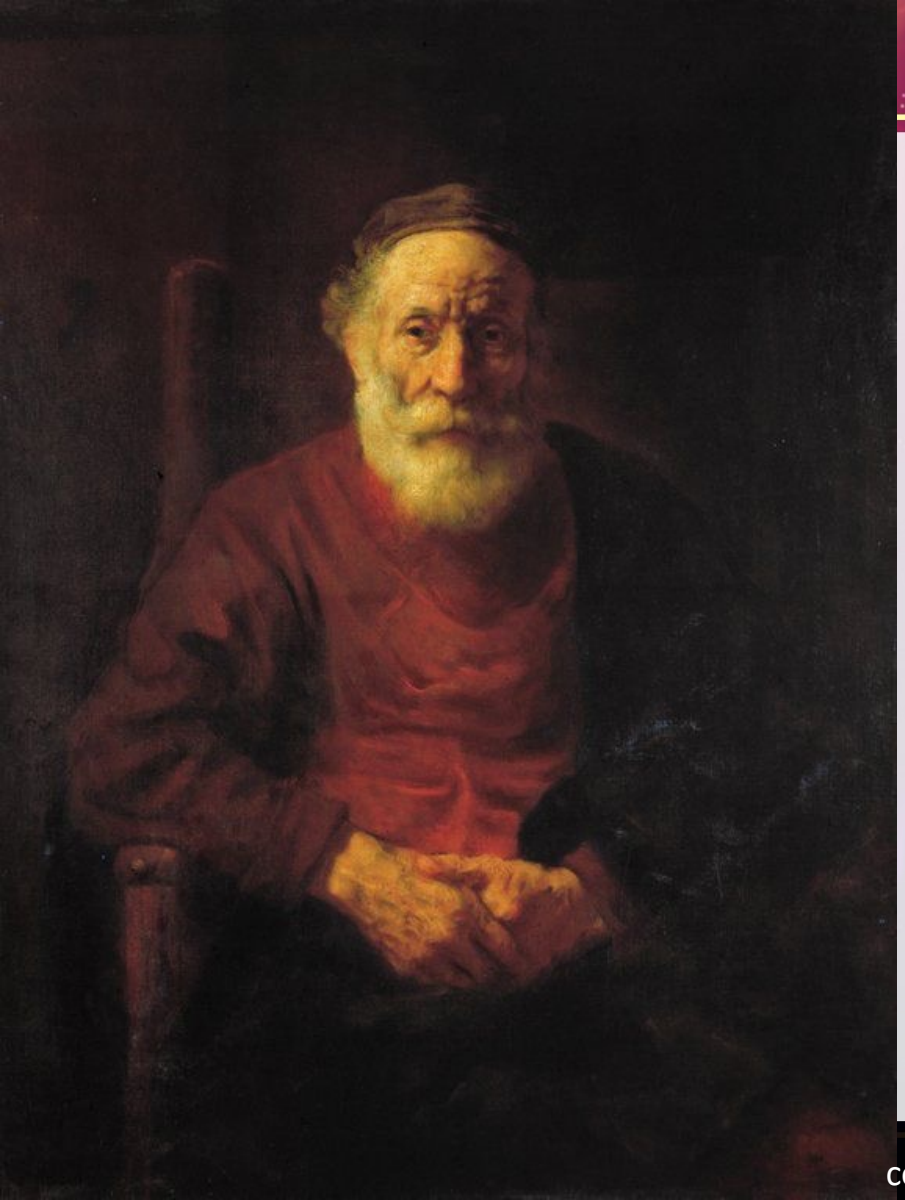

When John calls himself “the Elder” it’s a particularly affectionate word. He is a wise, old, strong dude that you know. He has always had your back and always will.

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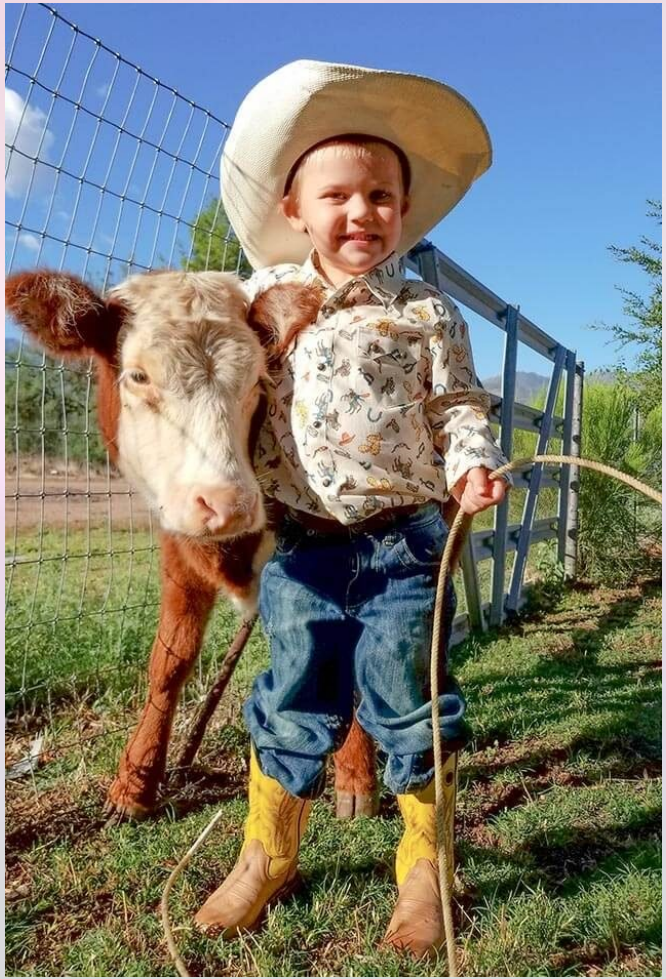
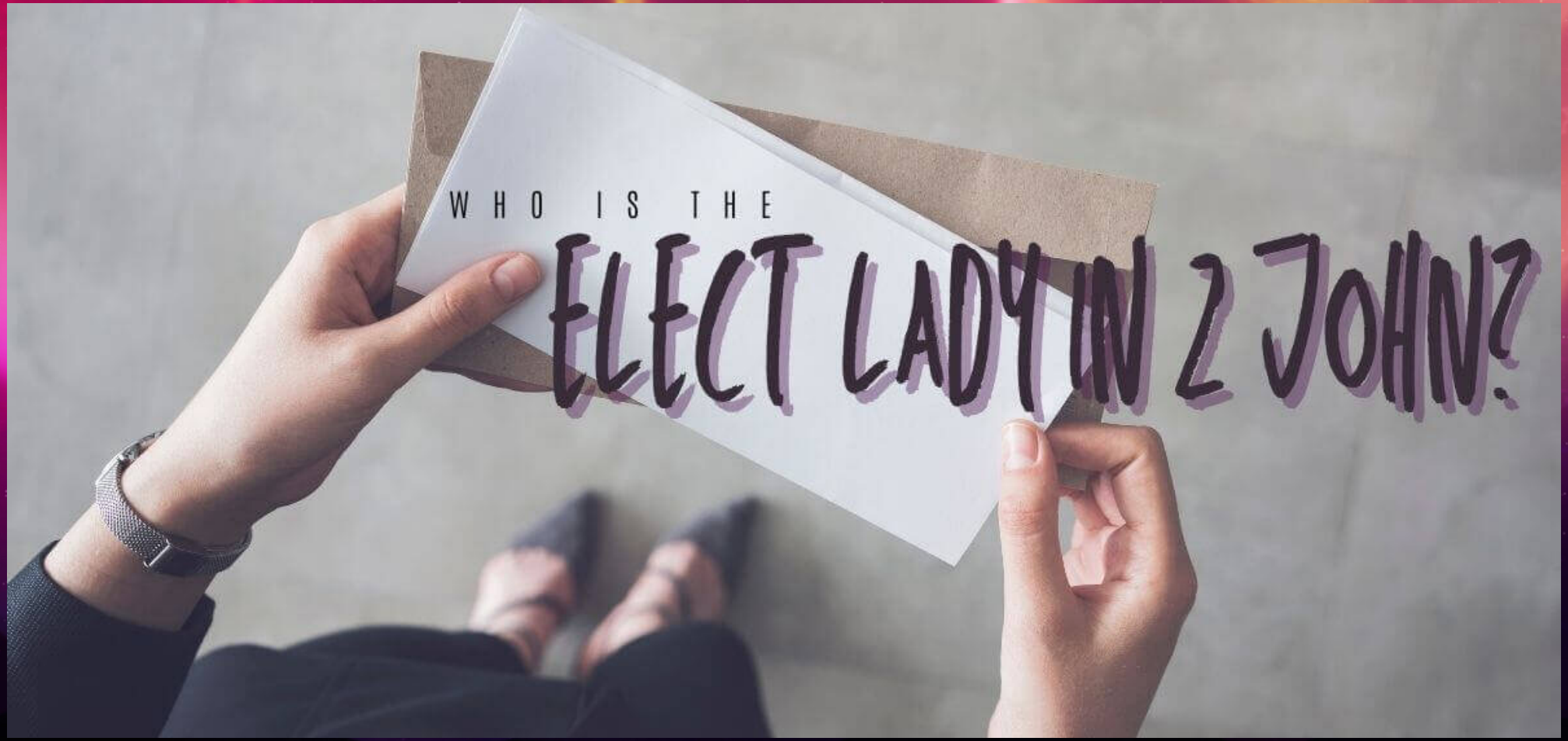


- She loves me in truth.
- It’s always “us” with him. He is in the fight by my side.
- She regularly points out positives in my life that make her glad.

courtesy readers’ digest

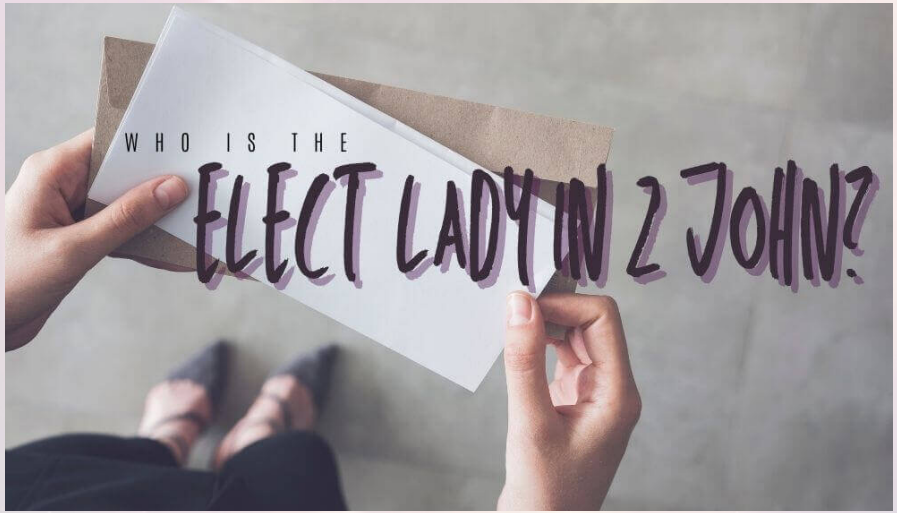
2 John

[1] The elder: To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth [CSB]



courtesy Got Questions

- This is a local church. Many cities were personified as females and this could be sent to the church or churches in such a city; e.g., Ephesus and the churches there.



- This letter is sent to an unnamed female and her family. John is responding to questions they posed.

courtesy Got Questions

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Greek: περιπατέω
peripateo = walking;
often a euphemism
for a way of life

courtesy nouw

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2 John:1-4

The truth is connected to the best love.

The truth can be known.

The truth remains in Christians.

Truth (with love) is a delivery mechanism for God's grace, mercy, and peace.

Truth can be lived out [literally: walked-in].

2 John

[1] The elder: To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth

Greek: ἀγαπάω
agapao = the highest kind of love; self-sacrificial, other-centered choice

Greek: ἀλήθεια
alethia = truth; reality which can be known; not mythology

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Ephesians 4

[15] speaking the truth in love.

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courtesy Steve Noble Show

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major attitudes toward truth

You make up your own truth.

You can’t handle the truth!

courtesy Rolling Stone; Columbia

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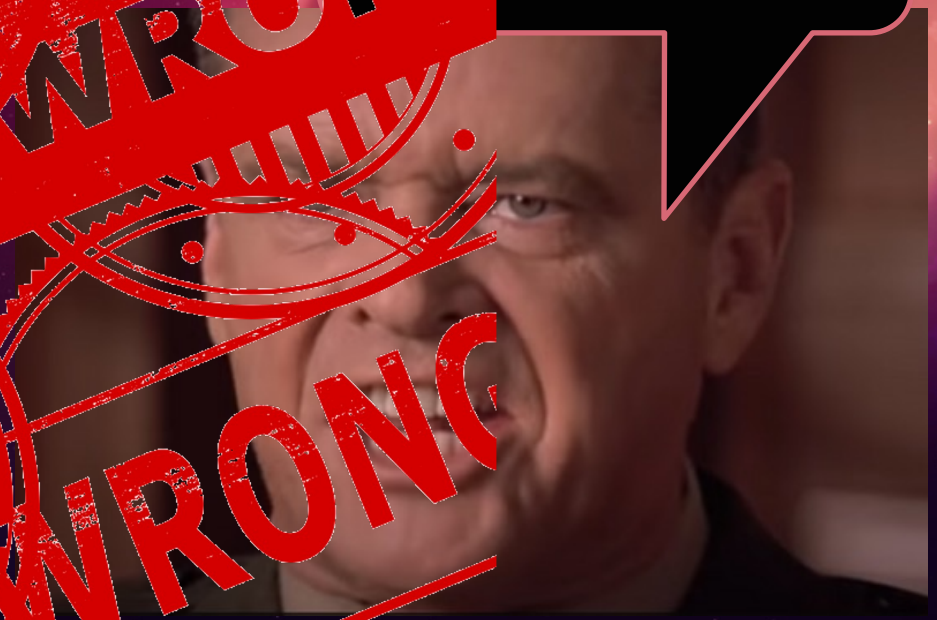

courtesy Rolling Stone; Columbia; gfx

John 8

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,
"If you continue in my word,
you really are my disciples.
32 You will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free." CSB

Deuteronomy 17

[4] and if you are told or hear about it, then investigate it thoroughly. If the report turns out to be <u>true</u>…CSB

Hebrew: אֱמֶת emet = truth; idea that there is absolute truth which is discoverable

Martin MacDonald & WB brainstorm

Why do people stop striving to find truth?

- Corruption fosters hopelessness.
- Statistics are cherry-picked, eroding trust.
- Narrative adherence is demanded.
- News is slanted without admitting perspective.
- The move away from the Bible has left moral ambiguity & indifference.
- Satan is the great deceiver. He works to obscure the truth through changing definitions, substituting authorities, obfuscating facts, and attacking dissenters.

courtesy Wharton School/U Penn

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2 John:1-4

You connect truth to the best love.
You search for and know the truth.
You count on what remains.
You find peace in the truth.
You boldly take in and put out truth.

2 John

2 because of the truth that remains 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 Son of the
Father, in truth and love.

1 Corinthians 13

[8] as for <u>knowledge</u>, it will come to an end. CSB

***gnosis*, not *alethia* (truth)**

courtesy chillpill

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courtesy newscientist

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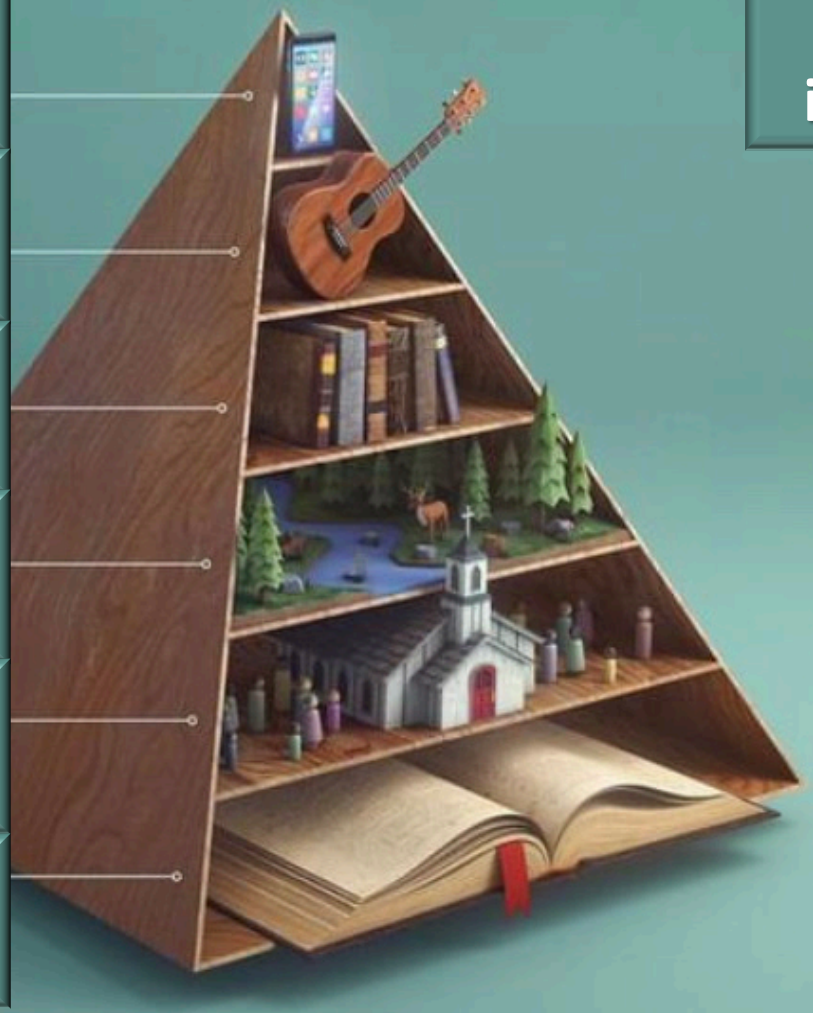
The truth intake pyramid

- Internet/social media – use sparingly
- Beauty – art, culture, rest inspire worship
- Books – bring thought about God's world
- Nature – creation roots in God's design
- Church – orients life around God
- Bible – only infallible source of truth



© Brett McCracken

What about opposition? If I live by truth, I could lose my job or my freedom. Should I hide my connection to scripture?

courtesy MGM

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Genesis 1

[27] God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. NASB

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command, but one we have had from the
beginning—that we love one another. 6 This is love:
that we walk according to his commands. This is the
command as you have heard it from the beginning:
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God loves

- God loves sinners. Romans 5:8 says, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” God hates sin, but He loves sinners.
- God loves those who treat others fairly. Psalm 37:28 shares that “the Lord loves justice.” He calls for impartial fairness.
- God loves a cheerful giver. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 Paul tells us that “God loves a cheerful giver.”

1 Corinthians 13

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous
or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand
its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record
of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about
injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.
7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always
hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

NLT

courtesy vice

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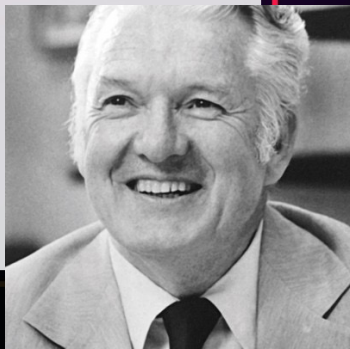

courtesy Fuller Seminary

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John 14

[23] Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word.” CSB

John 15

[10] “If you keep my commands you will remain in my love.” CSB

walking in truth and love

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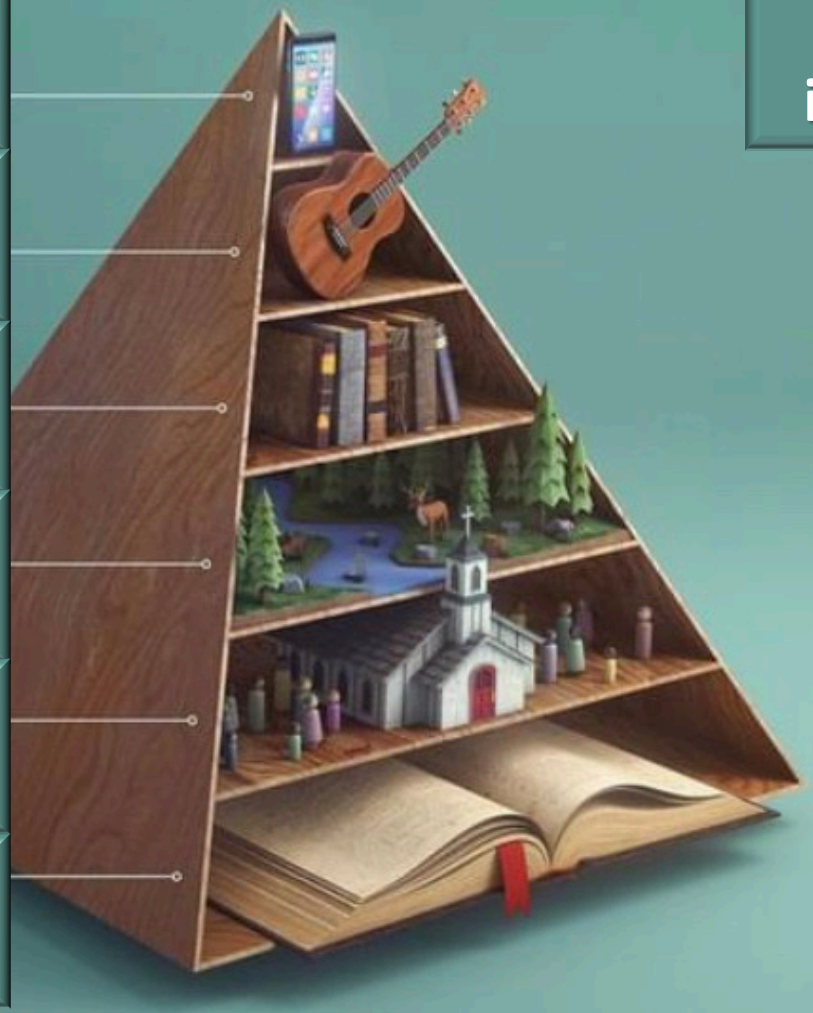

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