



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Truth and Love

Passage: II John 1:1-13

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: In a world filled with noise, confusion, and imitation, the call to walk in both truth and love has never been more needed. John's message to the believers wasn't just about knowing doctrine or showing kindness—it was about living out a faith that holds both together. Truth without love can become cold and rigid, while love without truth loses its strength and direction. But when truth and love work hand in hand, they reveal the beauty of Christ in us—a faith that is real, balanced, and transformative.

I. Remain Faithful to the Truth (Verses 1-4)

A. Value the Heritage of Truth

Treasure the truth you've been given.

When others see us living the truth, loving the truth, and walking in the truth, that's when it takes root.

B. Walk Consistently in the Truth

Let your daily life verify what your lips profess.

Real truth doesn't just inform the mind; it transforms the walk.



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When people watch your steps, they should be able to trace them straight back to Jesus.

C. Rejoice in Faithful Fruit

Encourage those who are walking right.

Let those who are walking in truth know that their steady obedience brings glory to God and joy to His servants.

II. Live Obediently in Love (Verses 5-6)

A. Remember the Command That Never Changes

Love isn't a new fad; it's not a modern concept or a cultural invention — it's the same command that has been there from the beginning.

Love isn't about emotion or convenience; it's about obedience.

B. Practice Love Through Obedience

Real love isn't permissive; it's obedient.

Love that pleases God is love that listens to Him. To love Him is to walk in His ways—to choose what honors Christ rather than what pleases self.

Demonstrate love by doing what pleases Christ.

C. Cultivate Relationships Anchored in Truth

Love grows best where obedience to Christ is shared.

Build your fellowship on spiritual integrity, not sentiment or convenience.



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Real Christian fellowship isn't about shared interests — it's about a shared heart for God.

"Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy." — Warren Weirsbe

"If you have to choose between Truth and Love, choose both." — Unknown

III. Guard Carefully Against Deception (Verses 7-11)

A. Recognize the Presence of Deception

Don't be naïve; truth will always be under attack.

Spiritual maturity isn't gullibility wrapped in kindness — it's discernment anchored in conviction.

B. Refuse Partnership with Error

Love that blesses falsehood becomes its accomplice.

Be gracious to people, but never supportive of error.

C. Realize that Truth and Love Stand Together

To abandon truth in the name of love is to lose both.

Real Christianity refuses to choose between the two—it clings to both with conviction and compassion.

Protect truth because you love God and His people.

Conclusion: In a world of imitation, walk faithfully. Hold fast to the truth. Live out obedience in love. Guard your heart and home so both remain pure.

"Truth without love hardens; love without truth deceives; but truth and love together transform" — Unknown



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"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

You don't have to sacrifice one for the other. You don't have to feel guilty for standing up for what you believe in. You don't have to let people walk all over you in the name of love. For a Christian, truth and love belong together.



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