

Only One: 2 John 4-13

July 26, 2020

Scriptures: 2 John 1-13; John 13:34-35; Romans 13:8-10

Bottom Line: Christians unite around the truth and love of Jesus, and it changes how we see our world

John's Amp(lification)

Amplification - adding meaning through repetition and expansion

Truth - When John talks about truth in 1-3, he is talking about Jesus. Jesus is the truth about God, and this truth unites us in love.

Love - John reminds this church of Jesus' command to love others, which fulfills all of God's commands and is evidence that they are followers of Jesus.

How to Deal with Gnostic Teachers

John teaches this church to use the truth about Jesus and the love that His followers show each other as standards to evaluate whether a teaching is from God. The Gnostic teachers fail this test.

Our Response to 2 John

Evaluate the Voices We Hear: Do the cultural or popular religious voices that we listen to affirm the truth about Jesus, promote love for others, and unify us around those things?

Unity In Christ: Our commitment to Jesus is our ultimate allegiance. It is stronger than any difference of race, culture, gender, or any preference. We unify in Christ despite these differences.

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LISTENING

Check in with everyone, see how the week has been. Give each person your attention, engage with what they're saying. If you're having trouble talking about your week, here are some things to talk about

- What fears have you had this week?
- How did you overreact this week?
- How have you experienced God's goodness this week?
- What/who are you praying for this week?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the teaching? Were there any new ideas? What challenged you? Do you have any lingering questions?
2. What is the truth about Jesus? What does Jesus show us about who God is?
3. What does it look like to be unified to someone you disagree with?
4. What voices in our culture fail the test of truth and love? Which ones pass? Are some a mixed bag?
5. What is the difference between looking for an application from the Bible and having a response to the Bible?

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