

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:
Fight False Teaching

Speaker:
Peter Privitera

Date:
March 6, 2022

Scriptures:
2 John

Theme: Fight the effects of false teaching by holding fast to the truth and to one another.

Introduction: In his second epistle, John is writing to the church to teach them to fight false teaching. He knows how it corrodes and destroys the church, and how it works with sinful hearts to deceive and seduce. At its core, all false teaching is divisive, harming both the individual and the community.

John offers two responses to false teaching: truth and love; and he unfolds that over 4 points:

1. Be reassured (1-3)

John writes to the church (the 'elect lady and her children'). And in his greeting, he offers the usual words of blessing, but in the future tense. Grace, mercy, and peace *will be* with us—it is a promise from God.

Their reception of that promise is conditioned upon remaining in the truth. To walk in God's truth is to experience those blessings.

2. Keep connecting truth and love (4-6)

John brings up familiar themes: truth, love, and the beginning. He is reminding the church of the gospel message they've received, and its effects.

He offers a building logic: Christ loved us, therefore we love him. If we love him, we will also love one another. As we love one another, we fulfill his command.

By living according to that logic, we are walking in integrity. It will not do to think we can honor Christ while we hate one another. And it will not do to think we are loving others if we are not walking in the truth.

3. Do not "run ahead" (7-11)

He next addresses deceivers, who deny Jesus' incarnation. But his main concern is not with their lies, but with the effects of those lies on others.

These deceivers had been in the church. John considers them to be antichrists, who were working to undermine Christ's church.

They considered their teaching to be advanced ('running ahead'); but their beliefs were contrary to God and his truth.

The church was responsible to identify and resist them, not receiving them into their homes or greeting them.

4. Enjoy the joy (12-13)

John closes with the anticipated joy of seeing them face-to-face: true fellowship.

Questions:

1. Are you pursuing both the truth *and* love for others? Or do you prioritize one?
2. Do you believe there are "many deceivers" in the world? Do you guard against them?
3. Do you struggle to draw lines in your fellowship with others out of biblical conviction?