

Keep Truth - Practice Love - Defeat Deception

2 John 4-11

In the apostle John's day, some people were spreading deceptions regarding the historical person of Christ – they were maligning the Biblical doctrine that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in one person. As they continued to sow these deceptions, their teachings produced confusion within the church. The NT book of *2 John* is John's message to one such body of believers. It is written remind them to cling to the truth and it serves to demonstrate how God can provide and equip against Deception:

- **Protection from Deception: Walking in Truth (v. 4)**
 - Why was John happy?
 - How does 'Walking in Truth' model discipleship?
 - What is meant by 'Walking in Truth' as a command?
- **Protection from Deception: Walking in Love (vv. 5-6)**
 - Who was it written to: The elect *Lady* & her children
 - Who was it commanded by: Father
 - What is the command: That we love one another
- **God's Prescription for Deception (vv. 7-11)**
 - Diagnosing the Problem – What Deceivers Distort (v. 7)
 - Identifying Consequential Effects – Loss of Rewards (v. 8)
 - Prescribing the Solution – Abide in Him (v. 9)
 - Handling the Contamination – Stay away & don't encourage (vv. 10-11)

1. In our passage this morning, John was perhaps dealing with some deception in the form of people teaching what Bible scholars call Docetism – advocates of this early distortion of Christianity believed that Jesus only appeared to have a physical body, and that He did not actually experience suffering or death. This teaching was informed and influenced by the notion that Christ's material form was an illusion... They emphasized His divine nature while downplaying or flat out denying His humanity. However, Hebrews 2:14 explains why it was so important that Jesus share in our humanity. Take a few minutes to review this verse. Why was it that God's plan for the redemption of mankind required Him to share in our humanity? (*You may also want to review: 1 John 4:2; Philippians 2:7; and Luke 24:39*)
2. Why does God insist that this type of deception is the spirit of the Antichrist? What false teachings today are spreading deceptions about the Historical Person of Christ? (*see: 1 John 2:18; 1 John 4:3*)
3. Many churches today emphasize a duty for believers show love to the world. Yet in Scripture, God calls believers to demonstrate love to one another. Therefore, contrary to some who might emphasize 'going along to get along,' what is the best way you can show God's love to a non-believer?
4. Many people get tripped up on the meaning of Abide – in the Greek it means "to stay." So, to abide, or stay, in the doctrine of Christ means that you are to remain in it. Therefore, if you turn aside from the doctrine of Christ, you are no longer in it...you become out of touch with God (i.e. out of Fellowship with God). Therefore, 2 John is a book written for restoring and maintaining Fellowship with God (*just like 1 John*). It was written to believers and for believers. It points believers back to the truth (abiding in Christ) and to our command to love one another. It is meant to help safeguard the hearts of God's people against the most deceitful deception known to man – the distortion of the person and ministry of our Savior, Jesus Christ.