

WALKING IN TRUTH AND LOVE

LESSON AIM: teach believers the sanctifying effect of living in truth and love.

LESSON VERSE: Whoever transgresses, and abides not in the doctrine of Christ, has not God. He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he has both the Father and the Son (2 Jn 9).

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson; then ask the following questions for class discussion.

Why should a believer live in truth? 1:1-2

It is the truth of God's Word that sanctifies, that is, he is set apart from the world and its sin (Jn 17:17). It is truth that transforms his mind so he knows the perfect will of God (Rom 12:2). It is truth that the Spirit uses to change him into the image of Christ (2 Cor 3:18; Rom 8:29). When a believer finds truths in the Scriptures for present-day believers and lives by them, he will be drawn close to God and will discover the grace and truth that are in Jesus Christ (Jn 1:14, 17).

How can a believer love other believers? 1:3-6

First, a believer must deeply appreciate the grace, mercy, and peace that God has given to him in salvation. What does grace, mercy and peace have to do with salvation? Grace: God gives a sinner what he does not deserve, which is Heaven. Mercy: God does not give a sinner what he deserves, which is Hell. Peace: God is no longer at war with the believer that has received His Son as Savior. When he realizes this love that God had for him, he will love others that God has saved (1:3; 1 Jn 5:1). This truth is the basis for brotherly love. Some show it better than others, but every expression of brotherly love is due to the Word of truth that is embraced by believers. Truth gives birth to love (1:3).

Second, a believer is commanded to love other believers (1:5-6). It is a matter of the will to do it, not a matter of how you feel about it. God will give the believer grace to love all other believers (Heb 4:16), but He will not give His grace until he obeys. It is a matter of faith in God's promise.

How are truth and love corrupted? 1:7

False teachers corrupt the truth about Jesus Christ. Some say He is God, but did not become a man. Others will say He was a man, but was not God. Many will say He was only a prophet. These are lies.

What must a believer do to have a full reward for his faithful service? 1:8

A believer has two responsibilities regarding false teachers to keep a full reward. First, he must warn his converts to beware and be careful with false teachers, because they are deceitful workers that are difficult to recognize. Second, he must teach his converts how to detect them. They will deny some truth about Christ, Scripture or salvation. They may deny that Jesus Christ is God or man, that He is the final Prophet, the only High Priest or the coming King of all kings. Or, they may deny that the Bible is only Word of God, and it is verbally and totally inspired by Him. They may deny that salvation is only a work of God with no works done by man; that salvation is only by God's grace through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross and of His resurrection from the dead. They often use Bible words with different meanings, so it may take much probing to discover what they really believe.

How important is it to receive the doctrine of Christ? 1:9; Jn 1:12

If a person does not abide in the doctrine of Christ, he is not of God. Jesus said that a person can perform miracles, prophesy and cast out demons in His name, but not receive Him as his God and

Savior, He would not allow him to enter His Kingdom (Mt 7:21-23). Those who abide in Christ's doctrine have both the Father and the Son.

How should a believer treat a false teacher? 1:10-11

They are not to assist false teachers in their work by any means. They were not to help them by giving them hospitality or even to make them rejoice by giving them an encouraging greeting (1:10, 11). Any help given to them would make them partakers, workers or sharers in their evil work. However, we are to love their souls by evangelizing them with the doctrines of Christ: His crucifixion was for their sins, and His resurrection was for their justification.

How should a believer communicate truth and love? 1:12

John communicated his message with a short letter, because it was urgently needed. However he liked to communicate his message in person, if possible. When we communicate with others, whether believers or not, it will give us great joy that we have done the work of the Lord (1:12). This also will bring joy to those that receive our message (1 John 1:4).

**THE SANCTIFIED BELIEVER THAT WALKS IN TRUTH AND LOVE,
SEPARATES HIMSELF FROM ALL FALSE TEACHERS.**