

Live The Truth II John 1:4-6

Introduction

Do you think it's important to tell the truth? Should a person try to live an honest life, or is it ok to lie about things once in a while? Living a life of truth in today's culture almost seems impossible, but no doubt that's been the case in every age. God's way is always the way of truth. In every age, God is looking for those who will live a life of truth.

In this age, Christ wants us to live our lives based on the truth of God's Word! And it is possible, with the Holy Spirit's help, to "walk in truth" and have a convincing impact upon your world. God wants to give you a hold on the truth so the truth can get a hold on you. In Psalm 119:30, the Psalmist said - "I have chosen the way of truth..."

Living a true and honest life requires a constant dependency upon the grace and power of God. In Psalm 86:11, David writes, "Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth." Living a true and honest life will fill you with confidence and spiritual strength, encouraging even others to live a better life. The key to "living an honest and truthful life" is to get the truth inside of you so you know what the truth is!

In 3 John 3, John says, "For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth." (3 John 1:3 NKJV)

In John Chapter 14, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6 NKJV)

In John Chapter 8, He said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32 NKJV)

According to the Bible, Jesus is the source of truth. The only way to live an honest and truthful life is to know Christ! One of the hardest things to do in a sinful world is to tell the truth and live an honest life. But it's by living in the truth that we develop the spiritual principles that produce godly fruit that causes us to experience God's spiritual success for our lives.

In John Chapter 16, Jesus told the disciples, "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (John 16:13 NKJV)

In Jeremiah 29, the Lord says, "And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart." ([Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV](#))

And Psalm 119 says, "Your righteousness *is* an everlasting righteousness, And Your law *is* truth." ([Psalms 119:142 NKJV](#))

If you want to live a life of truth, if you want your life to be a life of integrity and honesty, and righteousness, then your life must be based upon the Word of God. The Bible is the foundation of truth and honest living. Jesus didn't come to abolish God's law but to fulfill it. According to John 1:1, "In the beginning, Jesus was the Word. Jesus, as the living Word, makes the written Word come alive in our hearts.

In the second Epistle of John, he talks about living and walking in truth. Let's take a few minutes and talk about living a life of truthfulness and honesty.

"The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, *and* peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. Having many things to write to you, I did not wish *to do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

([2 John 1:1-13 NKJV](#))

Out of the thirteen verses, there are eight, which are precisely the same as those of the first epistle. John identifies himself as the Elder. Obviously, his readers knew exactly who he was, and from the earliest times, Christians knew this was the apostle John writing. By this time, John the Apostle was an old man, about ninety; which is probably why he used the term elder; not as the title of an *office* but as a designation of his advanced age. It seems John lived the longest of all the apostles and was the only one who died a natural death.

The elect lady and her children was either an individual Christian woman and her family, or John wanted to warn and encourage by this letter a particular congregation. It could be that John didn't name himself or the elect lady and her children by name because he wrote during a time of persecution and didn't want to implicate anyone by name in a written letter. If the letter was intercepted and the authorities knew who it was written to by name, it might mean death for those persons.

Whoever the elect lady was, John says she was loved by all who have known the truth. The truth in us also lives in others who know the truth. John seems focused on living the truth. He uses the word *truth* some thirty-seven times in his New Testament writings. Contrary to popular opinion, what binds Christians together is not social networking or political persuasions. What binds believers together is a common truth and faith in Jesus Christ.

God's truth does not change, His truth is eternal. Some think truth changes from age to age and from generation to generation. But the Bible teaches that fundamental truth is constant and eternal and will be with us forever. John's devotion to this truth is something he wishes for us all. Even in his greeting, John points out that God's grace, mercy, and peace are given in truth and love. Apart from God's truth and love, we can never really experience grace, mercy, and peace.

Most of the time, we don't need someone to teach us more truth; we need someone to encourage us to walk in the truth we already know. In this brief letter, John gives us some simple guidelines to help us grow spiritually and live an honest and truthful life.

John begins by telling us to keep in touch with God by choosing His way over our way.

I. Choose to Live a Life of Truth

The psalmist writes in Psalm 119:30, "I have chosen the way of truth." Honesty and truthfulness have broken down at all levels in our society. The failure to be honest has reached epidemic proportions. And yet, honesty and truthfulness are foundational to maintaining trust and order in any society. Saint Augustine said, "When regard for truth has broken down or even been slightly weakened, all things will remain doubtful." In recent years we have seen the demise of honesty and truthfulness cause a breakdown in the family, the community, the court systems, and almost every part of the nation. It's certainly true in the corporate and political world, and sadly it is present even among professing Christians within the Church.

Truthfulness is absolutely essential to any society. The foundational importance of truthfulness is stated in the Ninth Commandment, "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." You may not think it matters, but God sure does!

Choosing to live an honest life means at least two things:

1. A sense of following Christ, who said, "I am the way, the truth, the life" (John 14:6).
2. The intention of making Christ's truthful ways our ways.

The Apostle Paul tells the Ephesians, " Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another. (Ephesians 4:25 NKJV)

Each day you have to choose to be honest and truthful. And one of the best ways to do that is to keep things in your life simple. Learn to think of and relate to life and God in simple terms. When you feel pressure or stress, get back to basics of talking to God and reading your bible. Especially when you're struggling over issues, return to the simple life in Christ. Just be honest, tell the truth, and keep things simple.

Secondly, make Christ real in your lives by learning the way of truth.

II. Determine to Understand the Way of Truth

We all want to know the truth. Whether you are Christian or not, we all want the truth. We don't like it when politicians lie to us. We don't like it when our government leaders lie to us. We don't like it when our boss lies to us, or our friends, and especially our spouse or family members.

In John Chapter 14, Jesus told His followers that He is the way, the truth, and the life. But to grasp the full meaning of this, we must live by his example, not just hear his words. The Bible says that Jesus is the way to God and that we will only know him as "the way" if we follow His way of living.

Our worship takes on new meaning when we learn to live like Jesus. Jesus told the disciples, "Those who do God's will shall enter heaven." We learn God's will as the Holy Spirit teaches us what the Bible says. Jesus said in John 14, "**Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.**" (John 14:11 NKJV)

When we learn to live the Christian life as a child of God, we are in the Father, and the Father is in us. Jesus becomes our primary reference point for seeing and understanding the meaning of life. The more we learn about Christ, the more evident the truth becomes.

Through Jesus, we find the truth that truth sets us free. We learn and know the truth as we faithfully live the Christian life. Jesus is God's way to know the truth and receive eternal life. You must make Christ real and authentic in your life. Learn to let Christ be your friend, confidant, helper, healer, and Savior; let Christ be a

real person to you. Let words like authentic and genuine describe your relationship with Christ.

And #3 Accept God's help and guidance so you can share and proclaim this awesome truth to others.

III. Proclaim the Truth

It was John's joy to find the elect lady and her children walking in the truth. He writes, I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. That is the joy of any pastor's heart - to know that his people are walking in truth.

John rejoiced because when God's people walk in truth, they share it with others. In 1 John 2, John wrote, "Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father." (1 John 2:24 NKJV)

You see, truth is not only crucial for its own sake; telling the truth also demonstrates we are walking with the Lord. Those who walk with the Lord follow God's commandment to love one another.

John wrote, "I plead with you, lady!" John wasn't too proud to beg when it came to living the Christian life and following the commandment that we must love one another. The integrity of our Christian life can only be measured by our love and concern for one another? (John 13:35 and 1 John 4:20-21)

John says, "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it." If we truly love God, we will obey His commandments. They are guides and gifts to us from God. Authentic, agape love always walks this way.

John warns against those who think they can get by with a vague love that has no heart for obedience. We must learn to distinguish between agape love and emotional love feelings. They are not the same. The love of God produces within us the desire to obey His commandments. And his truth motivates us to proclaim his way to others.

Conclusion

Don't try to live your life in mental isolation. Let God encourage you and guide you through His word. Invite him to help you and give you insight on how to handle your problems. Choose to walk in His truth and learn His ways. His truth will liberate your heart and set you free from the burdens and cares of this life.

Don't be afraid to trust God even when you're not sure how things will work out. God has the resources and the desire to help you. Proverbs 3:5 and 6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding, In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your path. Don't live your truth; live in God's truth.