



Wk. 1 - A Postcard Reminder
“Sweet Consequences of Walking in Truth”
Wk. 16 - 2 John vs. 1-13
By Pastor Jody May

2 John 1:1-13 ESV

Greeting

¹The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ²because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

³Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love.

Walking in Truth and Love

⁴I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. ⁵And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. ⁷For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. ⁹Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Final Greetings

¹²Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

¹³The children of your elect sister greet you.

Introduction:

Back between WWI and WWII the SBC, wasn’t even called the SBC yet, was beginning to form up around a select set of values. The beginning premise of which was to pull people of similar doctrine together to make it easier for missionary support. It used to be that missionaries were responsible for



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raising their own funds because so what they would have to do, is return to the states and travel extensively for months even years, to different churches to raise support for their endeavors. By forming what would later be called the International Mission Board we as Baptists were able to cut out all the tiring and time-consuming travel and fund missionaries while out in the field. This pattern of support has been going on for centuries.

In this postcard from John, we actually see this going on in the text. John has been visited by missionaries or traveling clergy for support. Perhaps not monetary support but for spiritual and emotional support. At the same time John is giving a warning about traveling preachers not of the same doctrinal truths as we see in v.10:

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,

This church in which John has sent this brief note is not the same church as we spent time studying in 1 John, but they are by nature of the same material and the vocab of the letter shows they are neighbors or sister churches.

That is what most likely John means here by the elect lady in v. 1. ***1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth,*** The lady and her children are a metaphor for the church. He also stresses Truth, as he did in our wrapping up of 1 John last week. Those that **WALK**, that means live in/to practice the truth are of the same family as John. We would call them “little children” as we saw the intent of that phrase played out last week. Then of course in v. 4 he is talking about those that have come and visited him as *her children*, they belong to that specific church, and that they all share the same father. Yes, this is a church very much like the one in 1st John, and most likely John has seen the **opportunity to add an addendum**, to his first letter.

For you see, they have been experiencing some similar problems. There has been false teachers and prophets coming through teaching an alternate Gospel, pulling people away from the church, while getting that same church to fund their ministry. I don’t know, maybe it was **the ancient world’s version of TBN?**



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So, before we get into deciphering what’s going on in this Post Card from John, we need to establish the motive, the theme, and what is the underlying message of this letter.

John is using his word attack skills again, he’s going to tee-off on one word to build his point **TRUTH**. Hey church lady I love your kids with all TRUTH/SINCERITY/INTEGRITY, and not just me but all the brothers around here, and this thing between us, this TRUTH were going to experience that together forever because that’s what God’s children receive, eternally living in TRUTH. **²because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:**

Then in verse 3 he gives some encouragement, from the last Apostle, because if you abide in TRUTH you are going to get exactly what you desire most **³Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love.**

Grace – *getting what you don’t deserve*, Mercy – *not getting what you deserve*, and Peace – *getting what everybody needs and wants as long as you keep WALKING in TRUTH and LOVE*. They were doing ok they just needed a little pep talk, so John jumps to **not how to deal with the** problems you are facing but to the **WHY you would want to!** You want Grace, you want mercy, you want peace? Keep it up little children, keep living in TRUTH and LOVE and you are gonna keep receiving that which you want! *I am going to explain what exactly that Truth is later in point two today, you will have to wait for that.*

Christian life is sometimes hard guys because God needs to get your attention off of your worldly comforts and onto the blessings of God, that you will receive forever! Those things will never leave you and those things are the things that get you through life. And He wants your attention on them so that it becomes the thing you want, when you taste and see that the Lord is good you are going to keep going back for seconds! John has already discovered that they were experiencing this trend, so this is what I want you to pick up today!

By Walking in TRUTH, you’ll have all you ever need.

We don’t have to go looking for riches, we don’t have to go through a ton of counseling or life coaching, we don’t have to marry into money, we don’t



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justify our consciences by works of justice, by WALKING in Truth you will receive, keep, and have all you ever need; Grace, Mercy, and Peace and **with those you will be content**. So today we are looking at three different things that Walking in Truth does for us.

1. Walking in Truth Commands a Godly Love. (vs. 5-6)

⁵And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the **beginning**—that we **love one another**. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

The beginning, John has already alluded to this in 1 John 2, this is a summary:

1 John 2:7&10 ESV

The New Commandment

⁷Beloved, I am writing you no **new commandment**, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard... ¹⁰Whoever **loves his brother abides in the light**, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

The commandment **from the beginning of creation** has always been to love one another especially those in the family. Adam, here is Eve, “bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh” and Cain, “Where is your brother?” Both big sins in the beginning were neglect of those you love. Adam did not lead his wife as he should have, and Cain did not care for his brother as he should have. The punishment for these things is evident in scripture so from the beginning you see the greatest and first command is to **love**, (ἀγαπάω (*agapaō*)). vb. **to love**. (*Involves a deep level of affection and intimacy.*¹) to be **devoted to one another**. (explain what is devotion)

The Salvific Love of Christ:

¹ Langford, J. (2014). [Friendship](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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If thought for others would have remained preeminent, the written law would have never been brought into existence. **Written Code** is the manifested evidence of **what it looks like when man choses to love God above all and his neighbor as himself**. As Paul comments in Romans and Galatians.

Romans 13:10 ESV

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the **fulfilling** of the law.

Galatians 5:14 ESV

For the whole law is **fulfilled** in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Paul is only summing up what Jesus taught in Word and Deeds.

John 13: 34-35 ESV

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This command is not a burden for it was a gift of Jesus to remove the written law of **condemnation** so we may practice the unwritten law of **adoration**.

Matthew 5:17-18 ESV

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill them**. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Jesus completed the written law by fulfilling the unwritten law, of loving God and others His family to the utmost!

Jesus has commanded, Paul then commanded, and now John says guess what, those that **WALK** in the Truth keep this command. Loving others unveils the unseen Truth, that following rules and regulations without love is useless for Salvation ([1 Cor. 13](#)). John says the church should always keep **Walking in that TRUTH**, we are commanded to do so (v.6).



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I think the challenge what the ancient church ran into is still a challenge that we may be facing today. How in the world do you love people, especially those in the church, **that make it hard on you!**? I mean there are people in the church right now, in different denominations, in this denomination, possibly in this body, that bow an awful lot to culture. They try and shadow God’s Word as not to reveal too much light, people that soften the gospel instead of just letting truth go and do what it is supposed to do. These same folks also have a tendency to argue more with those in the church reminding us “The world is watching, shut up!” It is hard to love folks like that.

I think the challenge friends is that we must remember that **the fight of being a Christian witness in this world** is not whether I agree with other Christians all the time, showing UNITY, but what magnifies God to all of creation is **HOW I choose to love brothers and sisters**, even the ones that make my life hard... Would you pray for me in this and I will pray for you family as well.

But Abiding in Truth not only commands us to keep loving but it propels us to come against anything that teaches to the contrary!

2. Walking in Truth Confronts False Teachings. (vs. 7-8)

⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those **who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh**. Such a one is the deceiver and the **antichrist**. ⁸ Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.

Antichrists the same issue of 1 John ([1 John 2:18](#)). The early church we can tell is plagued by those that claim they know Christ. Mike preached on them, I have preached on them, and it is a good reminder to us all that just because someone says they love God doesn’t necessarily mean they are for Him. That gets trickier all the time by the way. In John’s Day this had evolved somewhat. We had talked about the heresy of Docetism/ those that believed Jesus was perhaps only a phantom.

It appears that John is summing up the Gnostics argument. In v. 7 he explains that a **deceiver/antichrist** is someone who **does not confess the second**



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coming of Jesus in a human body. When you look at the history of the church this is a bigger deal than what you know. Gnostics were proclaiming that 1st God would not return, the work of Salvation was all completed the 1st time. Jesus just showed you how to live as a man and die stoically. 2nd that’s it, that’s all there is to Christianity, that’s what made the Gnostics so dangerous for their message was eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow is death! So yeah, keep your religion, but don’t get caught up on being like Christ, that will get you killed. If He lived the life for you accept it but go ahead and enjoy what life offers you now, be like the rest of us!

But the proclamation of the Truth, that **Jesus will RETURN in the FLESH**, what we are to keep walking in, is so much bigger and more important than what you may know.

Because Jesus will return here’s the Truth we are all to live in right now:

The Truth of Jesus’ physical return is that Justice is served!

- **Mat. 16:27 - For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.** – Jesus was fully aware of His return in the flesh, as a man and as a God. AND the second coming is all about judgment. The Gnostics choose to ignore eminent Justice that is backed by the armies of heaven in the name of the Father.
- **Mat 24:36 - “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”** – It also brings a sense of **anticipation**, we are to live in joy, waiting for his return. The world wants to control by getting us focused on our tomorrows. God’s people by Walking in the TRUTH **focus on eternity**. It keeps us from getting caught up in the NOW, no we live in Grace, Mercy, and Peace!

The Truth of Jesus’ Physical return mean’s it happens so fast there is not time to react!

- **Mat. 24:27 - For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**
- **Mat. 25:13 - Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.**



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- **Mat. 24:44 - Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.** – And when it happens it will happen in a blink of an eye, no time to predict, no time for a false and contrived repentance. You won't be able to jump political sides.

The Truth of Jesus Physical Return means our physical return!

- **1 Thes. 4:16 - For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**
- **1 Cor. 15:52 - In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.** – Jesus coming in the flesh promotes the idea and gives the future hope that we ourselves are more than phantoms, we will have tangible corporeal bodies. We can look forward to having our bodies remodeled, beautified, preserved.

The Truth of Jesus' physical return is that others will try and get your attention off of it!

- **Rev. 3:11 - I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.** – John agrees with Jesus that Christians are called to be wary and a true Christian will not fall to the beguiling's of antichrists. *Those who do were never really of us.*
- **Mat. 24:4-5 - And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.** – Jesus warned us Himself, people will give a false message. *You show yourselves to walk in the Truth by living out my warnings.*

This morning, the world is begging us to let go of the TRUTH that Jesus will come back in glory. I was watching a [video](#) by [Apologia Studios](#) where Jeff Durbin was in a confrontation with pro-choice people. The fear coming out of the pro-choice people was made evident by their anger to the fact that someone would **tell them they were sinning**. The last thing Jeff does is offer the lady to repent and she says no *I like how I am*. He says you like your sin? **She says yes, I like my sin**. If you watch the exchange there is no logic in it, only the appeal to let people do what they want to satisfy their flesh.



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That is the new Gnosticism, they can't even argue that God is not there, the atheistic argument no longer flies, but their only argument is to talk louder based on emotion and the more people they draw to their side the more their guilt is assuaged. There is a special place in hell for people like that.

Family, we all need to understand and accept that there are real people that actually want to keep others out of eternal life. Walking in the TRUTH, means we confront the Antichrists of this world for the person they may be trying to lead away is someone of our family. DO NOT let the world lead your children away...

Then the natural result of walking in the TRUTH of Jesus' real and physical return is that it must and will **Cripple the enemy.**

3. Walking in Truth Cripples the Antichrists. (vs. 9-11).

⁹ Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.
¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and **does not bring this teaching**, (physical return of Christ) do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹ for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

So, *Walking* in the Truth, that Jesus will return, **commands a Godly Love**, and it **Confronts False Teachings** and lastly here it **Cripples the Antichrists** of this world. John is looking to help this church by letting them know when is it time to stop being hospitable. Reminds me of the words of the late Patrick Swayze in what may have been his best performance, *Roadhouse*, when he was asked when it was time to stop being nice. **Your nice until I tell you it's time to stop being nice.** John is here telling the church it is time to stop being nice!

As I said in the beginning, missionary works were not monitored nor controlled by denominational representatives. There was no pre-screening of individuals that claimed to be traveling evangelists. Traveling preachers would show up in town and target the people that would accept them especially if they demonstrated acknowledged about God, the church. They would get church people to put them up and gather them an offering so that they could keep preaching, and now we know what: a false gospel. John is



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saying it is time to stop being nice! They have come in, they have demanded your money, they have stolen from the church coffers money that could have been spent on the true works of God, and they have abused God’s bride. John says kick them out and furthermore don’t even entertain them, slam the door in their face.

This week in your readings it must have been a coincidence, ☺ but God had us again read in our reading plan 1 John and their problems with Gnosticism and you would have also read this one verse from Ephesians that sums up what we are harping on today:

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead **expose them.”**
Ephesians 5:11 ESV

Brothers and sisters let me be as frank as I can with you this morning. For those of us that are seeking to be faithful in **following the Command to Love**, that are being **faithful by Confronting False Teachings**, the byproduct of that is that we will begin to **Cripple the effects of the Antichrists** of our age. The command here in Ephesians is not to soften the affronting nature of the Gospel but to use it to EXPOSE the work of DARKNESS.

What influences are coming into your house Christian, that you feel pressured to let in, that you feel you need to open your house to? What are those things that everyone is doing around you that if you don’t do them people think there is something wrong with you:

- Listen you don’t need Social Media! **As a matter of fact let me tell you what you absolutely need, and that is a way to reach someone for direct communication.** All Social Media companies make money off of advertisements sold to you while there are increases in anxiety and depression directly tied to their use. Look if SM drives you, stop being nice, kick it out of your house!
- If you think your kid needs everything other kids in the world stop listening to those that would steal your children from you to make the next generation of state supporters. Slam the door shut on that and stop being nice!
- If money is a problem for you but everyone lives on credit around you, two things, first stop being a slave to your creditors secondly realize



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that coin in the pocket of the world is coin taken from your pockets to live on mission for God. Don't give another dime to the offer cheap contentment from material things, it's time now to not be nice!

You have the right and the Apostle John has given you the nod that it is time to **CRIPPLE the Spirit of the ANTICHRIST. Anything that sucks life out of you, you don't need!** Kick it out of your life, fight it because we also know that you risk losing what you have worked so hard for, what Jesus has died for according to v.8 if you don't. Because here's the answer we all need to remember today:

By Walking in TRUTH, you'll have all you ever need.

Closing and Challenge:

Perhaps today you may be having a hard time starting at square one, you think you are ready to Walk in Truth, but you have a hard time loving people. My friend loving others IS accepting the Truth that Jesus will return for His bride and how you treated her states whether you know Him or not. Maybe you need to leave here today with a willful decision to love people in this church as Christ loved them: **SACRIFICIALLY**. People that have experienced the grace of the Gospel have no problem with that.

Or maybe you're the quiet one who never wants to speak up when you hear false teachings, doctrines. Perhaps among your family you're too interested in making peace all the time so when you hear the effects of false teachings in the family you're the first to be quiet. **Maybe God wants to save your family and HE wants you to speak up!** How will people know the truth unless you open your mouth? Students perhaps it is time for you not to march or protest but when you hear someone confront the gospel you need to be the first one to defend it. We heard at *Fields of Faith* this past week that God uses the spark of Gospel courage to spread the influence of the Gospel. Students are looking to see who will stand up to the Social Bullies of this world.

Lastly, perhaps you and I have just let too many worldly influences in our home. We have not been careful with what we consume from the video we watch to the food we eat. We need to reclaim our homes as a place of God



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worship and we need to kick the world out, slam the door in its' face, and make the place of home worship preeminent in our lives again. Perhaps today, this has struck you in a way that you need to confess your sins of being tied to closely to the world, you need to turn from following the antichrists of this world and you need to follow Jesus. You need to put your trust in Him for Salvation and not in the things of this world. You can do that today. Let's all pray now that God will help us walk in the sweet Consequences of the Return of the Son so we can receive a full measure of Grace, Mercy, and Peace today.

Prayer

Communion

Benediction

Go in the name of the Father, that sacrificed His Son so we could know His Grace, Mercy, and Peace.

Go in the name of the Son, that confronted and crippled the enemy so we could look forward to His return for a final victory.

Go in the name and power of the HS, that helps us to follow the commands of God, revealing the nature of the antichrists, and spurns us to reveal that to others.