

Message #3

II John 1:4-6

When we come to these verses of Scripture, you will notice that there is one verb that shows up three times in these verses—it is the word “walk.” This word shows up once in **verse 4** and two times in **verse 6**. In every instance the verb is present tense, meaning continual and habitual action in the present.

**THE THING THAT WILL BRING BELIEVERS AND ALL SPIRITUALLY-MINDED PEOPLE THE GREATEST JOY AND HAPPINESS IN LIFE WILL BE A LIFE THAT CONTINUALLY WALKS IN THE TRUTH OF GOD.**

**PART #1 – What John discovered. 1:4**

Now the Greek word “find” is one that means to find something by discovery because of specific inquiry (G. Abbott-Smith, p. 188-189). John was looking for certain information about this elect lady’s children. The specific thing John was looking for was whether or not they were continually walking in the context of truth.

They were not deceptive liars. They were walking in the truth of the Word of God and they were living life in the context of being truthful people. Their lives were continually conforming to the Word and will of God and their lives were continually being lived in truth.

It is the phrase “of your children.” This phrase may mean one of two things: 1) Some of the woman’s children were walking in truth, but not all of them were; 2) John had not learned about all of the woman’s children, but of those he had learned of, they were walking in truth.

Listen to me and listen well—living life as a truth-oriented person and as one who obeys Scripture is a command of God. He may be thinking of the “love one another” commandment given by Jesus Christ in one setting—John 13:35; 15:12, 17. If this is what he is thinking of, then loving one another is a commandment in the context of living life in truth.

- 1) Living life in the context of truth is not just a nice suggestion; it is a command of God.
- 2) Nothing brings greater joy to spiritually-minded people than walking in truth and learning that others walk in truth.

**PART #2 – What John requested. 1:5-6**

This request seems odd because this woman didn’t seem to have a problem with this—she loved everyone and let them into her home (II John 1:10-11). Her love was distorted and John needed to straighten out her concept.

**Question #1** - Who is to be the object of the love?

Notice the object of the “love” is “one another.” There are two different Greek pronouns used for “another”—“Heteros” means another of a different kind and “Allos” means another of the same kind. The word used here is “allos,” another of the same kind.

**Question #2** - What is love?

The actual word “love” is one that means to esteem or to prize the goodwill of another person. This word is a carefully calculated type of love, which has direction and reason. Although emotions are involved, this type of love is not the type that is highly emotional, based on instincts and spontaneous affections. This is love at its highest form—love that chooses to put another first in the context of truth.

**Question #3** - When was this love principle established?

The principle of loving others of the same kind became a new commandment “from the beginning” of the ministry of Jesus Christ. The phrase “from the beginning” refers to the specific beginning of Christ’s teaching regarding the Church Age (I John 1:1; 2:7, 24; 3:11).

**Question #4** - Why should we love others of the same kind?

In **verses 5-6** there is one main reason given—because this is a commandment of God. The word “commandment” means this is a military charge, a direct command from Almighty God. Jesus Christ specifically gave this command to His disciples (John 13:24-25; 15:12, 17). Now carefully look at **verse 6**—the love that we are to have is one that walks in accordance with obedience to the Word of God.

**(Extreme #1)** - Isolated sectarianism.

We should not isolate ourselves from others who love truth and love God’s Word and doctrines. Any person who is truth-oriented should find a loving relationship with us.

**(Extreme #2)** - Ecumenical toleration.

You will never be happy until you are truth-oriented. If you know Jesus Christ as Savior, the greatest happiness of your life may still lie ahead for you. The more you know, the more you obey, the happier you will be. That is the truth of these verses.