

Study 1 - 2 John 1:13-21

v1 The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth--and not I only, but also all who know the truth - v2 because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: v3 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. v4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. v5 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. v6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.

*As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. v7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. v8 Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. v9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. v10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. v11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work. v12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. v13 The children of your chosen sister send their greetings. **2 John 1:1-13***

BACKGROUND

1. Written by the Apostle John.
2. Written to the sister (v1) of a lady who was in the church with John (v13) when he returned from his exile in Patmos to Ephesus. Most likely very late in John's life.
3. The letter only seems to have become public after the death of both John and the ladies mentioned. This makes knowing the exact occasion of the letter uncertain.
4. The style of writing and the tone of the letter leave us in no doubt that John wrote the letter.
5. Whatever the occasion, the letter addresses an issue we all face:

CONFRONTING ERROR IN THE CHURCH

I Firstly, Confronting ERROR in the CHURCH: REQUIRES an ATTITUDE of LOVE.

*v1 The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, **whom I love** in the truth.*

v5 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another

Too often the response of the church when confronting error is to attack the person and not the issue. We see this a lot in politics in our day. You only need to look at what is happening in both our own country and places like the USA.

We should never fear to confront error – (this family was hosting false teachers in their homes) – HOWEVER how we confront error is very important.

OUR PURPOSE SHOULD ALWAYS BE REDEMPTIVE – Jesus WAS!!!!

II Secondly, Confronting ERROR in the CHURCH: DEPENDS on OBJECTIVE TRUTH.

*v1 The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love **in the truth**--and not I only, but also all who know the truth - v2 **because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:***

We are living in a growing world of SUBJECTIVE TRUTH.

A growing number of people are rejecting the idea of OBJECTIVE TRUTH like God and the Bible and replacing OBJECTIVE TRUTH with a SUBJECTIVE, personalised form of truth.

The GREAT danger of this trend is a lowering of MORAL STANDARDS as there is no longer an objective STANDARD to measure MORAL TRUTH against.

HOWEVER, TRUTH must not become a BIG STICK to hit people over the head with, TRUTH should rather be a STANDARD that we should encourage people to STRIVE TOWARD.

People should be TAUGHT why a STANDARD is SET and why the STANDARD is BENEFICIAL.

MARRIAGE vs LIVING TOGETHER

<https://www.city-journal.org/article/why-marriage-is-good-for-you>

10. IT'S SAFER. Marriage lowers the risk that both men and women will become victims of violence, including domestic violence. Two-thirds of acts of violence against women committed by intimate partners were not committed by husbands but by boyfriends (whether live-in or not) or former husbands or boyfriends.
9. IT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE. Married people live longer and healthier lives. Nine out of ten married guys who are alive at 48 will make it to age 65, compared with just six in ten comparable single guys. .
8. IT CAN SAVE YOUR KID'S LIFE. Children lead healthier, longer lives if parents get and stay married.
7. YOU WILL EARN MORE MONEY. Married men make, by some estimates, as much as 40 percent more money than comparable single guys, even after controlling for education and job history. The longer a man stays married, the higher the marriage premium he receives.
6. DID I MENTION YOU'LL GET MUCH RICHER? Married people not only make more money, they manage money better and build more wealth together than either would alone. At identical income levels, for example, married people are less likely to report "economic hardship" or trouble paying basic bills. The longer you stay married, the more assets you build; by contrast, length of cohabitation has no relationship to wealth accumulation.
5. YOU'LL TAME HIS CHEATIN' HEART (HERS, TOO). Marriage increases sexual fidelity. Cohabiting men are four times more likely to cheat than husbands, and cohabiting women are eight times more likely to cheat than wives.
4. YOU WON'T GO BONKERS. Marriage is good for your mental health. Married men and women are less depressed, less anxious, and less psychologically distressed than single, divorced, or widowed.

3. IT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY. Overall, 40 percent of married people, compared with about a 25 percent of singles or cohabitators, say they are "very happy" with life in general.
2. YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE YOU MORE. Adult children of divorce describe relationships with both their mother and their father less positively, on average, and they are about 40 percent less likely than adults from intact marriages to say they see either parent at least several times a week.
1. YOU'LL HAVE BETTER SEX, MORE OFTEN. Both husbands and wives are more likely to report that they have an extremely satisfying sex life than are singles or cohabitators. For one thing, married people are more likely to *have* a sex life. Single men are 20 times more likely, and single women ten times more likely, not to have had sex even once in the past year than the married.

III Thirdly, Confronting ERROR in the CHURCH: DEMANDS that we be WATCHFUL.

v7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. v8

Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. *v9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. v10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. v11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.*

We must be WATCHFUL about THREE things:

1. **WATCH OUT FOR PEOPLE WHO TAKE YOUR FOCUS OFF JESUS CHRIST** - *v7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world*
2. **WATCH OUT FOR PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO HAVE SOME NEW TEACHING** - *v9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.*
3. **WATCH OUT FOR PEOPLE WHO DOES NOT TEACH THE BIBLE** - *v10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. v11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.*

CONCLUSION

Confronting ERROR in the CHURCH means doing it FACE to FACE

v12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.