

THE PRIMACY OF *Truth*

Walk in Truth

Sunday, November 17, 2024

2 John 4-6

One of the central themes in all of John's writings is truth. The word "truth" is found five times in 2 John. It is the keyword. The word "love" occurs five times. Truth and love are inseparable. Another key word in 2 John is found in verse 4. It is the word "walk." John said, "I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father" (2 John 4). In verses 1-3 we were encouraged to "Know the Truth." In verses 4-6 we are challenged to "Walk in Truth." John challenged believers to think and live counterculturally by walking in truth.

Key thought: You are to think and live counterculturally, walk in the truth!!

- Walk – lifestyle or conduct, practical daily living
- Walk portrays movement and pictures the spiritual, moral direction of a person's life.
- "Christian Walk" is a metaphor for the daily life of a Christian.

(1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21; Colossians 1:10–12, 2:6; 3 John 4)

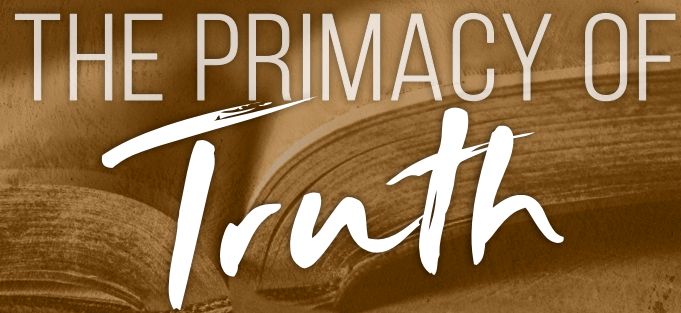
What does "walking in truth" look like?

1. The truth shapes and guides your worldview, values, and beliefs. (verse 4)

(Ephesians 4:17, 23-24)

2. Christ-like love is a distinguishing quality in your life. (verse 5)

There is no authentic Christian love without authentic Christian truth; and authentic Christian truth will ring hollow if persons do not embody that truth in acts of love.



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“Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it. God’s saving love in Christ, however, is marked by both radical truthfulness about who we are and yet also radical, unconditional commitment to us.”

(The Meaning of Marriage)

John makes it quite clear that we need more than love, and more than just any kind of love. Not only do we need love; we need love shaped by the truth. And in fact, love without truth is not authentic love at all.

3. Truth and love result in obedience. (verse 6)

(John 14:15; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 119:105)

Take away:

Psalm 86:11 (NASB95) Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

- Does the truth of God’s Word and His gospel shape and guide your worldview, values, and beliefs?
- Is Christ-like love a distinguishing quality in your life?
- What areas of disobedience are there in your life?