

July 14, 2019

Pastor Andy McClellan

“Focusing on TRUTH”

3 John

Sermon Outline:

1. **Walking in Truth unites true BELIEVERS into a spiritual FAMILY**, vv. 1-7 (*cf. 1 John 1:3, 7; 3:23-24; 4:1-6; 5:1-6, 12, 19-20; 2 John 1:1-3, 6; James 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12; Titus 1:4; John 17:14-23*).
2. **Walking in Truth unites true DISCIPLES behind a shared MISSION**, vv. 6-8 (*cf. Matthew 28:18-20; 2 John 1:7-11; 2 Corinthians 3:9, 6:14; 12:13; Philippians 4:3; John 17:20-23*).
3. **Walking in Truth divides true FOLLOWERS of Jesus from imitators of EVIL**, vv. 9-12 (*cf. 1 John 1:5-10; 2:3, 8-10, 15-17, 19, 29; 3:8-10, 17-18; 4:1-17, 20; 5:2-3; 2 John 1:7-9; 2 Cor. 11:14; John 17:14-19*).



R.C. Sproul has defined "truth" as "that which corresponds to reality as perceived by God." Discuss with your family the difference between truth and a lie. What is truth? Is a lie always wrong? Why or why not? Is it okay to say you believe something and then live as though you don't believe it? What would be some examples of this kind of life? Read 1 John to help you with your discussion.

For Further Study, Thought and Discussion

1. Read the book of 1 John. What was the threat facing the recipients of John's letter (ch. 2)? What encouragement or instruction does John give in facing that threat (Note: look for places where John says *why* he is writing)? What does John say is the connection between *believing* the truth and "*walking* in truth"? On the basis of John's definition of the truth, what evidence (if any) do you have that you are

walking in truth as an individual? What evidence (if any) is there that DCC is walking in truth as a spiritual family?

2. Read 2 John. What themes in 1 John are repeated in 2 John? What is the immediate purpose of this letter and who is the audience? What is John's command and caution in vv. 10-11? Why is the teaching of the truth so important that John issues such a command? What is the practical application of this principle to your life and your associations? What is the application for DCC and the ministries with which it chooses to partner in ministry?
3. Read 3 John. What has Diotrephes done to warrant John's mention of him by name (vv. 9-10)? In light of what you read in 1 John about truth and love, what would you say is Diotrephes' main problem? Does John say it is a theological problem (what he believes about Jesus)...or something else? How is this a warning for having good doctrine without a life that lives it out (consider 1 John 2:4)?

Next week: Future in Focus: Focusing on **Love**