

St George's, Paris : Bible Study #2

Talking and Walking the Truth: I John 2: 1-11

From the outset Jesus made it clear it wasn't what a person said but what they did that made the biggest difference. 'Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven' Matthew 7.21

Group Discussion: When people we know say one thing but do another which reveals the real truth about them – words or actions?

Personal Reflection: In what ways can you bring your actions more in line with your beliefs?

John emphasises that our claim to know Jesus Christ must be backed up by our conduct. Both are necessary if we are to be certain about the reality of our faith. Within these verses John continues the theme he began in the first passage (1.5-10) which is that genuine fellowship with God causes us to oppose sin (2.1-2) and obey the commands of Jesus Christ (2.3-6). He then goes on to relate such obedience to one command in particular – to love the brethren (2.7-11)

Read I John 2.1-11

1. Although John doesn't want us to sin, he reminds us of God's provision when we do (vv.1-2). What is the relationship between Christ speaking to the Father 'in our defence' (v.1) and his 'atoning sacrifice' (v2)?
2. How does this understanding provide comfort and assurance when you do sin?
3. According to John, how can we tell whether we truly know Christ or merely claim to know him (vv. 3-6)?
4. What other conclusions does John make about those who obey Christ's commands (vv. 5-6)?
5. Practically speaking, what does it mean to 'walk as Jesus did' (v.6)?
6. In verses 7-11 John focuses on one of the commands. How can this command be both old and new (vv.7-8)?
7. Why would love for our brother rather than love for God serve as a test of being in the light (vv.9-11)?
8. Compare John's statements about love and hate (vv.9-11) with similar ones made later in the epistle (3.10, 14-15). How do these verses clarify the two types of people John is contrasting?
9. In view of the overall context of this passage, what does it mean to live in the light (v.10)?
10. What particular areas of your life would you like to bring into the light? What barriers do you face in doing so?

Pray for greater consistency in your Christian life.

Now or later...

How does this passage encourage you to obey Christ and love other members of his body?