



Growth Group Questions

February 8, 2026

“Finding The Balance”

CONTEXT

This week we move to the second letter of John which is also the second shortest book/letter in the New Testament. John writes to encourage his listeners to move forward in faithful living. They are to keep walking in “truth and love” and are also to be aware of the false teachers in their midst. Though John’s message is written in love and grace, there is a danger he is concerned about - false teaching continues to pull people away from the message of Jesus.

John identifies himself as the Elder, which is a unique title, as well as a unique way to greet a church. Typically letters in the New Testament begin with words like grace and peace. John wants to remind the people of the relationship he has with them, as well as the authority that belongs to him because of being with Jesus. In the Old Testament Elders sat at the city gate and offered wisdom and insight about how to live. John sees himself in a similar role with these churches.

The recipients of the letter are called the “chosen lady and her children.” Again, this is language that is not normally used. Most scholars believe that John is alluding to a local church or group of churches (chosen lady) and the members of the church (children). The image carries a sense of warmth, and some have suggested it connects with the idea of the church being the bride of Christ who has “spiritual” children.

John says that believers are to walk in truth and love. Love without truth can become empty sentiment, and truth without love can become cold and harsh. However, when they are held together, they create healthy followers of Jesus. John is encouraged by the reality that God’s word is at work in the lives of people in the church and that they are loving one another as Jesus commanded.

John also reminds the church that they must remain vigilant. There are false teachers leading people astray by denying that Jesus came in the flesh and was fully God and fully human. John does not want his listeners running ahead and forgetting about who Jesus truly was and what he had done for them.

SCRIPTURE

2 John 1-9

¹ The elder, To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth— ² because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.

⁴ It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

⁷ I say this because 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. ⁸ Watch out that you do not lose what we^[a] have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. ⁹ 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.

John 18:36-38

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” ³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” ³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.

John 8:31-32

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 13:34-35

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Psalm 26:1

26 Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

QUESTIONS

1. In 2 John 1-9, John uses the word “truth” multiple times. What is the “truth” to which John is referring?
2. What does the Bible tell us about “truth”?
3. In 2 John 4, we read that John is filled with joy to find people are “walking in the truth.” What does it mean to “walk in truth”? What does that look like to you?
4. Not only are we to walk in truth according to John, but we are also to “walk in love.” What does it mean to “walk in love”? What does that look like to you?
5. What are some things we can each do to ensure that we are walking in love in our daily lives?
6. What did Jesus mean in John 8:32 when He said, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”?
7. The title of this week’s sermon is “Finding the Balance.” Why do you think it is important for us balance both truth and love in our lives?
8. What did you learn about God this week from studying 2 John?

PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. How do you “add value” in your area of influence?
2. Have you drifted off the path of truth and love and, if so, how do you get back on the path?