

problem:

false unity

1k 12:51-53 - the truth divides

the doctrine of separation has been lost in most churches today - no doctrinal statements

main idea:

Since we possess the truth together

we must practice the truth together

and protect the truth together

to profit from the truth together

implication:

- truth divides but it also unites

a building united around our fidelity to the apostles and prophets - eph 2:19-22

a body united around our knowledge of Christ - eph 4:11-16

a bride united around the sanctifying Word - eph 5:25-27, 31

application:

our doctrinal statement is the campfire of our unity and the light of our fellowship

Text:**Since we possess the truth together**

2John 1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom (masculine plural) I love in **truth**, and not only I, but also all who know the **truth**,

2John 2 because of the **truth** that abides in us and will be with us forever:

2John 3 ¶ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in **truth** and love.

(1) the elder - john very old

elect - Jn 15:16

lady - (Eph 5:29-32) ekklesia (feminine in gender)- 2 jn 13 -

and her children - 1 Jn 3:1-3, 7, 10; 5:21

(2) truth abides in us- Jn 8:31-32

truth with us forever - 14:6; 16-17; 16:13; 17:17

(3) truth and love= truth lived out...

we must practice the truth together

2John 4 ¶ I rejoiced greatly to find (perfect - have found) some of your children **walking in the truth**, just as we were commanded by the Father.

2John 5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.

2John 6 And this is love, that we **walk according to his commandments**; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that **you should walk in it**.

commandment - love one another - Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 2:7-11; 3:23-24; 4:7-12, 20-21; 5:1-3

and protect the truth together

2John 7 For many **deceivers** have gone out into the world, those who do not confess **the coming (an abiding truth) of Jesus Christ in the flesh**. Such a one is the **deceiver** and the **antichrist**.

2John 8 **Watch yourselves**, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.

2John 9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

2John 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting**,

2John 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his **wicked works**.

(7) anti-christs - 1 Jn 2:18-28

in the flesh -false christology - 1 Jn 4:1-6
(8) worked for - light on hill - (Matt 5:13-16); 1 Pet 2:9-12 (called out ekklesia to be light
-to be a temple - 2 Cor 6:14-17
lost reward (believers 1 Cor 3:10-15
(10) separate ecclesiastical identity -1 cor 5; eph 5:11-14; 2 Thess 3:6

to profit from the truth together

2John 12 ¶ Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that **our joy may be complete.**

2John 13 ¶ The children of your elect sister greet you.

partial joy - 2 john 4 some

full joy - 1 Jn 1:1-4 unity

truth divides but it also unites - Ephesians

2:19-22 (built on foundation of apostles and prophets- Word)) (building)

4:11-16 (unity of faith and knowledge) (body),

5:25-27, 31 washing of water word)(bride)

articles for further study:

<http://www.plainsimplefaith.com/2015/03/more-jesus-less-doctrine-less-jesus/>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-doctrine.html>