

problem:

truth divides but it also unites

what does a separated true unity look like...and not look like?

CPT:

2 John is about separation

3 John is about unity

Main Idea:

the truth divides but it also unites

in a shared love

and in a shared mission

not in a shared CEO

or a shared culture

or a shared conscience

but to a shared testimony

of true unity

Implication:

The truth unites us in a shared love and a shared mission to a shared testimony of true unity

CEO = pastor driven unity

Culture = methodological driven unity

Conscience = legalistic driven unity

Application:

true unity is not playing the same instrument but the same song

Text:**The truth divides but it also unites**

truth divides -> 2 Cor 6:14-17

and truth unites -> Jn 17:14-23

in a shared love

3John 1 The elder to the **beloved** Gaius, whom I **love in truth**.

3John 2 ¶ **Beloved**, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.

3John 3 For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your **truth**, as indeed you are **walking in the truth**.

3John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are **walking in the truth**.

2 Jn 1-8

walking - shared love - 1 Jn 4:7-11

and a shared mission

3John 5 ¶ **Beloved**, it is a faithful thing you do in all **your efforts for these brothers**, strangers as they are,

3John 6 who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to **send** them on their **journey** in a manner worthy of God.

3John 7 For they have **gone out for the sake of the name**, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

3John 8 Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be **fellow workers for the truth**.

2 jn 9-11 contrast

unity of mission - matt 28:18-20

not in a shared CEO

3John 9 ¶ I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, **who likes to put himself first (among them -not you)**, does not acknowledge our authority.

unity is not based on loyalty "we are united under the vision of our pastor"- Col 1:18 (Christ preeminent)

different teachers - 1 Cor 1:10-15; (not leaders) - trouble with video venues etc. personal kingdom building

or a shared culture

3John 10a So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, **talking wicked nonsense against us**. And not content with that, **he refuses to welcome the brothers**,

"we are a church for the unchurched", "become a self feeder" (look different)

refuses to welcome - 1 Jn 3:11-18

receive you receive me- matt 10:40-42; 18:3-6; 25:31-40; Jn 5:42-44

different gifts - 1 Cor 12:7-11, 14-23

or a shared conscience

3 John 10b and also stops those who want to and **puts them out of the church**.

puts them out of the church - Matt 23:12-15

different consciences - Rom 14:1-19 (doctrinal statement essentials of unity in truth)

but to a shared testimony

3John 11 ¶ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

3John 12 Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

good testimony from everyone- Jn 13:34-35 (a shared love in truth)

from the truth itself - 1 Jn 5:9-13 (a shared mission)

of true unity

3John 13 ¶ I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink.

3John 14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

3John 15 ¶ Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.

The friends - John 15:7-17

some articles for further discussion:

<https://skyejethani.com/the-celebrity-pastor-factory/>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/2-christian-unity-ephesians-41-16>