

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **September 3, 2017** sermon, "The Welcome Mat Issue." Please read the sermon passage (2 John 9-13) together out loud.

### SERMON OUTLINE

1. Uphold God's Truth Discerningly (9-11)
  - a. Make wise distinctions with regard to those who claim to be following Christ.
    - i. Those who go "on ahead" progress . . .
      1. *Beyond* what Christ taught us
      2. *Beyond* what the Scriptures teach about Christ
    - ii. Those who do not abide in the teachings of Christ (and John) do not have God.
    - iii. God's warnings and teachings are for our good and protection.
    - iv. Everyone who speaks of "god" is not serving the living God.
  - b. The Christian response to those who do not hold to Christ and the Word of God.
    - i. Do not receive them into your house-church setting.
    - ii. Do not have joyful fellowship ("all-things-in-common") with them.
2. Uphold God's Truth Relationally (12-13)
  - a. John desires to put down pen-and-paper and come visit his friends "face-to-face."
  - b. Note the stark contrast in how to receive those who are not abiding in Christ's teaching
    - i. Do not have joyful fellowship with those who go out from Christ (10-11).
    - ii. I send my joyful fellowship to those who abide in Christ (12).

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We live in a day when many who used to be part of the church have gone out from us, teaching that which does not hold to what Christ taught or what the Scriptures teach about Christ. They are "progressives" who simply will not abide in the teachings of Jesus. This passage clearly teaches that those who do not abide in Christ's teachings do not have Christ or God, the Father. Discuss this.
2. Based on #1, above: We are to withhold two things from these progressives. First, we are instructed to not receive them into a small group setting within the church. Second, we are not to have warm and joyous fellowship with them. Talk about this teaching and the struggle for balance in engaging with doubters, cynics and "progressives."
3. Based on #2, above: A great way to engage the hearts of our timid friends (those who are vulnerable to "progressives" such as our children, newer believers and those we are mentoring) is to put down the pen-and paper, put down the social media devices and invest time with them face-to-face. This can encourage them and galvanize them to the truth. How are you doing in meeting face-to-face with friends for the purpose of Christ-centered encouragement?
4. Based on #2, above: True believers are to be exclusive in their adherence to Christ, but not reclusive from the culture. What does it look like to not have "all things in common" with a progressive yet still engage them?