



Lesson 19: Christian Fellowship / Text: 2 John 1:9-13

Message Focus: The Blessing of Christian Fellowship

Intro: Christians are drawn to each other because of the things we have in common. In this study we will look at ways to identify true followers of Jesus Christ. We'll also discuss a proper response to people in cults who approach us seeking to spread their false doctrine.

1. In 2 John 1:9, John says that not everyone claiming to be a Christian is truly part of the church. He says the “doctrine of Christ” is the litmus test to determine who is or is not part of it. By way of review, let’s consider some of the primary doctrines (*beliefs*) he addressed in the Epistles he wrote.

1 John 2:1

A.

1 John 2:22

A.

1 John 4:3 & 2 John 1:7

A.

1 John 5:1

A.

1 John 5:11-12

A.

2. 2 John 1:10 provides a stern warning regarding our conduct toward those who blatantly deny Jesus Christ. This verse is not referring to all non-Christians. It is specifically addressing those who spread false doctrines (*beliefs*) about Jesus and seek to peddle their lies to others. What “religious” groups does this include?

A.

3. What are we to do if someone peddling lies about Jesus comes to our home? (*2 John 1:10*)

A.

4. Why are we to completely reject them as genuine believers, refuse to listen, aid them or encourage them in any way? (*2 John 2:11*)

A.

Why do you think we are given this advice? What harm could come from doing anything else?

A.

5. As we mentioned already, this is not the normal way to deal with non-Christians. In fact, we are called to share our faith with those around us. This occurs not only when we share our testimony with someone, but also when we “live out” our faith. Some refer to this as “Lifestyle Evangelism”. Some believe this form of evangelism is easier than approaching a stranger, often referred to as “Confrontational Evangelism”. Why might it actually be harder to share your faith in Christ with someone you know?

A.

6. Long time Christians tend to have fewer and fewer non-Christian friends. This is true in part because we have less and less in common with them and also because our faith draws us toward others in the church. While Christian fellowship is vitally important, we cannot dismiss Jesus' command to reach others with His life changing message. Balancing our desire to live a godly life and also share our faith can, at times, be difficult. Read the words of Jesus, found in Matthew 5:13-16, before answering the remaining questions.

- What does Jesus mean when He says that His followers are “salt” and “light”?

A.

- What sort of practical things can we do as Christians to engage non-Christians without putting ourselves in tempting situations?

A.

- What can we do as a group to reach out to non-Christians with the love of Christ?

A.