

# Church in Campbell Weekly News

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John's conclusion in this Epistle

Hope of closer fellowship for more joy

In verses 12 and 13 we have the conclusion of this Epistle. In verse 12 John expresses the hope of closer fellowship for more joy: "Having many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink, but I am hoping to be with you and to speak mouth to mouth, that our joy may be made full." Here the apostle expresses his desire for a deeper and richer fellowship with the church member for fullness of joy in the enjoyment of the divine life (1 John 1:2-4).

On the one hand, John's writing is divine; on the other hand, he is very human in his behavior. We see this humanness in verse 12, where John expresses his hope for fellowship that He describes as mouth to mouth.

Greeting in the endearing care

In verse 13 John says, "The children of your chosen sister greet you." This indicates what an intimate fellowship with the church members and what an endearing care for them the aged elder had.

We have pointed out that the sister to whom this Epistle was written may have lived near Ephesus and that her sister lived in Ephesus, where there was a church under John's care. In this Epistle John greets the one who received this Epistle on behalf of the children of her chosen sister. That she was not included in the greeting may indicate that she was deceased. However, her children were still in the church at Ephesus under John's care. In this verse we can see the endearing care of the apostle John for the saints.

The divine reality

The three Epistles of John are arranged in a good sequence. No doubt, the writing of the second Epistle was based upon the first. In the first Epistle of John we see what the divine truth is.

In 1975 I gave a series of messages on the seven mysteries in 1 John: the mystery of the divine life, the mystery of the divine fellowship, the mystery of the abiding, the mystery of the anointing, the mystery of the divine birth, the mystery of the divine seed, and the mystery of the water, the blood, and the Spirit. Recently, I have been deeply impressed with the divine reality in John's first Epistle. The central factor in 1

John is the divine reality. This reality is actually the Triune God. The divine reality is the Triune God not merely in theology or doctrine; this reality is the Triune God in our experience, that is, the Triune God dispensed into us for our enjoyment. This is the divine reality in 1 John.

The enjoyment of the Triune God

If you review the messages given in the Life-study of 1 John, you will see that in those messages the divine reality is ministered to you. Of course, in those messages there is ministered to us the eternal life, the fellowship of the divine life, the abiding in the Lord, the anointing, the divine birth, the divine seed, and the water, the blood, and the Spirit. When all these divine factors are put together, what we have is the enjoyment of the Triune God. Hence, the Triune God is the reality, the truth, we are enjoying. What are we doing day by day in the Christian life? We are enjoying the Triune God. If you were to ask me what I have been doing for more than fifty years, I would answer that I have been enjoying the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. As a result of my enjoyment of the Triune God, I have been burdened to share this enjoyment with others. However, because of the influence of traditional teaching, certain ones are not open to hear about the enjoyment of the Triune God.

People everywhere need to hear of the divine reality in the Epistle of 1 John. Do you not believe that this is what others, including religious leaders and Bible teachers, need today? Some recite the Apostles' Creed in their services every week, yet they are not saved and do not have any experience of the Triune God. We thank the Lord for opening to us the Epistle of 1 John, a book that contains course after course for our spiritual nourishment. Oh, what riches of our Triune God are revealed in this Epistle for our experience and enjoyment!

The true god becoming our experience

According to 1 John 5:20, we not only experience and enjoy the Triune God, but we are in Him: "And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." We have pointed out that a better translation of "Him who is true" would be "the true One." Actually, the Greek simply says "the true." Only our Triune

God is true; everything and everyone else is false. John tells us that we are in the True, in His Son Jesus Christ. No longer are we outside the True, and no longer are we outside His Son Jesus Christ.

In the second part of 1 John 5:20, John goes on to say, "This is the true God and eternal life." The true God becomes our experience as eternal life. This is the basic factor of John's first Epistle.

In 1 John we have the enjoyment of the Triune God as eternal life. Because we are in the true God, He contains us. When we are in the true God, He becomes eternal life to us.

In 1 John 5:20 we have the true One, Jesus Christ, the true God, and eternal life. In John's concept all these are one. However, in doctrine they are four: the true One, His Son Jesus Christ, the true God, and eternal life. But in our experience they are one. When we are in the true One, we are in His Son Jesus Christ. Then the true One becomes our God, and His Son Jesus Christ becomes eternal life to us. This eternal life is actually the true God. Furthermore, because the true God is real to us, in our experience He becomes our eternal life. This is the true God and eternal life.

Sincerity as the issue of the enjoyment of the divine reality

John's second Epistle is based upon the truth revealed in his first Epistle. Second John 1 says, "The elder to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth." In the foregoing message we pointed out that the first instance of "truth" in this verse denotes the revealed divine reality — the Triune God dispensed into man in the Son Jesus Christ — becoming man's genuineness and sincerity. This sincerity is the issue of the enjoyment of the divine reality. Hence, when John says that he loves in truth, he is saying that he loves in a sincerity that is the issue of the divine reality. We have also seen that the second usage of truth in this verse denotes the divine reality of the gospel, especially concerning the Person of Christ. This is "the truth which abides in us and shall be with us forever" (v. 2). These verses are simple, but their implication is profound. The entire first Epistle of John is needed for the explanation of the first two verses of his second Epistle.

Walking in truth and love

After speaking concerning truth in verses 1 through 3, John goes on to tell us in verses 4 through 6 that we need to walk

in truth and love. Truth is the reality of the Trinity, and love is the expression of this reality. When we walk in truth, we walk in the divine reality we enjoy daily. Love is the expression of this reality. As we walk in the divine reality, spontaneously we love others. This love is the expression of the divine reality we enjoy day by day. Because of this reality and love, grace, mercy, and peace are with us (v. 3). Praise the Lord that we may walk in the divine reality and in the divine expression!

(Excerpt from 2 John Life-studies, msg #1)

### Burdens for Church Prayer

- 2026 Targets, # of baptized:22; # of prayer meeting attendance:35; average Lord's Day attendance:10% increase
- Spread the kingdom of God by preaching the gospel on the WVC campus and in the community.
- Increase number of small groups
- Perfect young working saints perfection as containers for the next generation.
- Practice PSRP, BNPB, and vital small groups.
- Blending in the Body, by participating in conferences and trainings
- Establish and strengthen the church services, including children, YP, usher, etc.
- Establish a prayer life individually and corporately
- Pursuing the truth and growth in life to live in the reality of the kingdom.

### Announcements

- Life-study of 2 John MSG 1, 2
- HWMR: 2025 Fall ITERO 1
- 1/6 (Tue) 7:45pm, Prayer meeting at meeting hall.
- 1/17, 2/21, 3/14. 10am. Lessons on small groups with br Minoru on Zoom.
- 12/22-27 \$205/person (in-person), \$125/person (video) Winter video training at Santa Clara meeting hall:

1/4 1pm, 3pm	Message 11, 12
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- 2/13-15 International Chinese-speaking Blending Conference-Anaheim
- 1st meeting: Friday, February 13 7:30 PM
- 2nd meeting: Saturday, February 14 9:00 AM
- 3rd meeting: Saturday, February 14 11:00 AM
- 4th meeting: Saturday, February 14 7:30 PM
- 5th meeting: Lord's Day, February 15 9:30 AM
- **Financial Giving:**  
PayPal/Zelle: [churchincampbell@gmail.com](mailto:churchincampbell@gmail.com)  
[Venmo @Churchin-Campbell](https://venmo.com/@Churchin-Campbell)
- **Church in Campbell bookroom account** (PayPal/Zelle)  
[churchincampbellbooks@gmail.com](mailto:churchincampbellbooks@gmail.com)