

**2 John 10-13 | Christian Relationships**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

***2 John 10-13: If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. 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. The children of your elect sister greet you.***

**Summary :** Expressing love to one another  
Truth is a Person  
How we know we are loved  
Walking in truth – living it out  
Love means you tell the truth, but in a loving way  
We shouldn't move on – progress – from Jesus

John's bottom line? Truth and love aren't exclusive. Which brings us to the point now of how do we deal with people, and John tackles two groups of people, heretics and Christians.

So the question we are looking at is how does truth (the gospel) make us treat these three types of people. They are **1) deceivers, 2) non Christians, 3) Christians.**

**1. Deceivers “do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting”.**

All the points are the reason he concludes with such a stern warning! Don't greet them or receive into your house, for whoever greets takes part. **DISTINGUISH YOUR OBJECTION.**

What is his point? When you don't distinguish his error and your objection, you **endorse by default.** We should make a distinction. Not easy in a pluralistic, tolerant society

A radical stance over truth! **See Galatians 1!** Be careful of **NEW** and **KEYS.**

We deal with these people **radically** because they undermine the most important thing, how we are saved and get to know and love Jesus! And most of it is through **subtle distortions.**

**Therefore we are stronger on subtle Christian heresies than moon worshipping.** Rob Bell

**Be careful what you allow into your life. Don't comply by default.**

1 Cor 5.10: *“I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people – not at all meaning the sexually immoral or this world.. since then you would need to go out of the world! I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name brother if he is guilty of ... “*  
**Paul says we shouldn't associate with hypocrites, but must engage with the world.**

**2. Non Christians**

What should we be like? Retreat, like the monks?!

Jesus: Friend of tax collectors of sinners. Drank wine. Accused by the religious right. Lk 7.34

John 17.15: 'I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world'.

Jeremiah 29.5: Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their produce. Not sell everything, **stock up on baked beans, lock yourself in your house** and wait for the rapture.

This is why we at RHC we don't have church meetings all week. Equip you to live in the world.

Why do we love these people so much! What motivates us?! Because that's what we are apart from Jesus! NOT SUPERIOR! **Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18).**

**Rom 10:** How will they hear ...?! 'see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven'.

**LIVE YOUR LIFE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!**

**I want to encourage you in your work places to do three things (Acts 17):**

**Firstly**, make friends at work!

**Secondly**, be vocal about your faith. It's not just a gospel without words. "Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words". The Gospel's definition is good news not good actions.

**Thirdly**, clearly distinguish between Christianity and religion. Most people assume Christianity is a religion when it's not! When you talk faith they assume 'be good'. Matthew 5-7:

### **3. Christians (vs 12: though rather face to face')**

Firstly, face to face, vulnerable, honest, is best. Bad news, face to face.

Secondly, We need people and personal contact! This makes our faith come alive and be real. We cannot serve God in a vacuum. **PROBLEMS LEAD TO GREAT DISCOVERY. ROBUST!**

Satan's plans is to discourage and deceive you so that you WITHDRAW from God and people, and put on a religious front. We all struggle! **Don't think – I'm the only one! Isolation.**

Do you know the struggles we all go through?

*2 Cor 7.5-7: For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn, fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you..*

1. Make friends at church
2. Make time to open your life
3. Take the first step to be vulnerable

### **Summary:**

And these three correspond very well to three aspects of life we need to keep healthy in our lives to be effective people for God in this world.

We are to love the Lord our God with our heart mind and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. We are to love the Lord (gospel), love our neighbor (those who don't know Jesus) and our Christian brothers and sisters.

``When you love the culture and the church but not the gospel, you become liberal.  
When you love the gospel and the church but not the culture, you become religious.  
When you love the gospel and the culture but not the church, you get parachurch.

**Let us love one another.**