

“2 John: Healthy Church”

2 John

Brandon Lauranzon, January 4/5, 2014

Reflect on the Text

*Note: Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible itself. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- Read 2 John. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What are your New Year’s resolutions for 2014?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in **one phrase or sentence** (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

HEALTHY CHURCH: DIAGNOSIS

- 3 What was going on in the church when the apostle John wrote his letter? What did he want this church to properly diagnose?
- 4 Brandon said, “Not everyone who says they are a Christian is in fact a Christian.” What makes someone a Christian? What are the historic, orthodox truths one must confess in order to be a Christian? Do you have any friends or family who are Jehovah’s Witness or Mormon? How could you dialogue with them about your differences in a healthy way?
- 5 What do you think causes churches to become unhealthy and ultimately disband? Is it really possible that Seven Rivers’ buildings could one day be used for other purposes? How could we prevent that from happening?
- 6 Have you ever been a part of an unhealthy church? What made that church unhealthy?

HEALTHY CHURCH: GOALS

- 7 Define grace in your own words? What did W.H. Auden mean when he wrote, “The blessed will not care what angle they are regarded from, having nothing to hide.”
- 8 In your own words, define mercy and peace. How do grace, mercy, and peace relate to Seven Rivers’ core values?

HEALTHY CHURCH: ETHOS

- 9 Brandon said, “You can immediately tell the health of a church by asking this question: ‘How is its love?’” Jesus summed up the entire law in, “Love God and love your neighbor.” How have you seen love in action at Seven Rivers Church?
- 10 Read 1 John 4:7-10. According to this passage, what is the ultimate indicator of a healthy church?

Final Reflections

- How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for God and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?