

It impressed me that this woman who really knew the Lord and probably in her heart was more really loving in her whole attitude than this other woman, could give such a different impression and fail to show in her manner toward strangers the love of Christ.

Christianity has brought true love into the world and affected every element of our society. There are those who are trying to maintain the love without having the doctrine upon which it is based. That is impossible. It will not work. The ~~doctrine~~ of love will subsist a certain length of time after the doctrine on which it is built is removed, but it will soon disappear. It is a result; not a source.

We find that as we go on with what the Apostle of Love wrote here. John said, "The elder under to the elect lady and her children whom I love in the truth, and not I only but all they also who have known the truth, for the truth's sake which dwelleth in us and shall be with us forever. He stresses love and also truth. Christianity is a religion of love. But it's a religion which is founded upon truth.

In Eph. 4:15 we have an interesting statement where the Paul said, --let's read v.14 for context: "That we be henceforth no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine . . . but speaking the truth in love may grow up in all things . . ." I heard a seminary professor once give a message on this: speaking the truth in love. The whole burden of his message was "speak the truth in love; the main thing is you have a loving attitude in whatever you do." He went on to give an illustration saying people argue about whether the sun goes around the planets or the planets go around the sun. They argue about these things, but he said, they go right along just the same regardless of what they say about them, and it really doesn't make much difference. The important thing is that we show a spirit of love!

That's not what Paul is saying at all. He says, speaking the truth in love. Speak it in love, yes, but speak it! Don't remain quiet. God has put us here to know the truth, not to be tossed about with every wind of doctrine. To know the truth, but to speak the truth, but speak the truth in love. Love comes from truth. John is the Apostle of love but John is vitally interested in truth, and Christianity is a religion of truth. Christianity does not claim simply to be beautiful ideas. We spread these and listen to beautiful sentiments and that will help us all! But it helps us because it is truth and because it is founded on truth.

Look how the Apostle of love began his first epistle. If you ever found a statement of evidence of the importance of evidence you find it in 1 John 1:1-2. "That which was from the beginning . . . which we have looked upon and our hands have handled . . ." Look at all the kinds of evidence. We are talking about what we know about. We know this is true. He continues: