

## ***WHAT DO YOU THINK?***

“The fundamental principles of our religion is the testimony of the apostles and prophets concerning Jesus Christ, ‘that he died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended up into heaven;’ and all other things are only appendages to these, which pertain to our religion.”



## *WHAT DO YOU THINK?*

“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted Man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens . . . I say, if you were to see him to-day, you would see him like a man in form--like yourselves, in all the person, image, and very form as a man....”



# TRUTH AND LOVE

2 JOHN



# BACKGROUND

- No mass media
- Itinerant preachers were common
- No Holiday Inns
- Hospitality was customary
- John: “Don’t help the other team”
- How do you know who’s who?



# THE LETTER

- From 'The Elder' (John)
  - Same style/terms as Gospel, 1 John
  - Outflow of John 13-17
- To 'the elect lady and her children'
  - A church? Real people?
  - Doesn't affect the message



## OBSERVATIONS

- What words are repeated?

Truth (5x)

Love (4x)    Commandment(s) (4x)

Walk (3x)    The Teaching (3x)

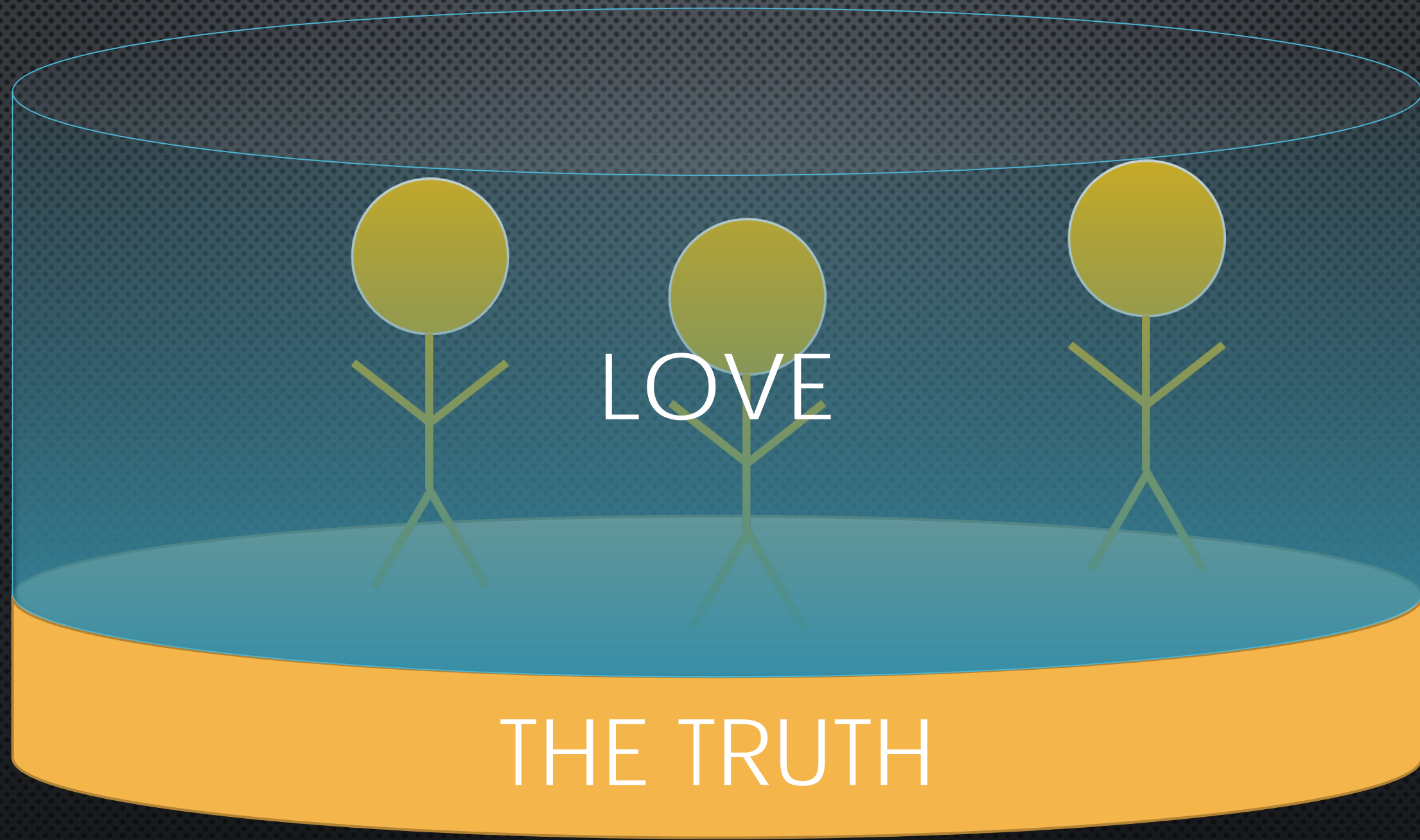
Abide (2x)    Deceiver (2x)



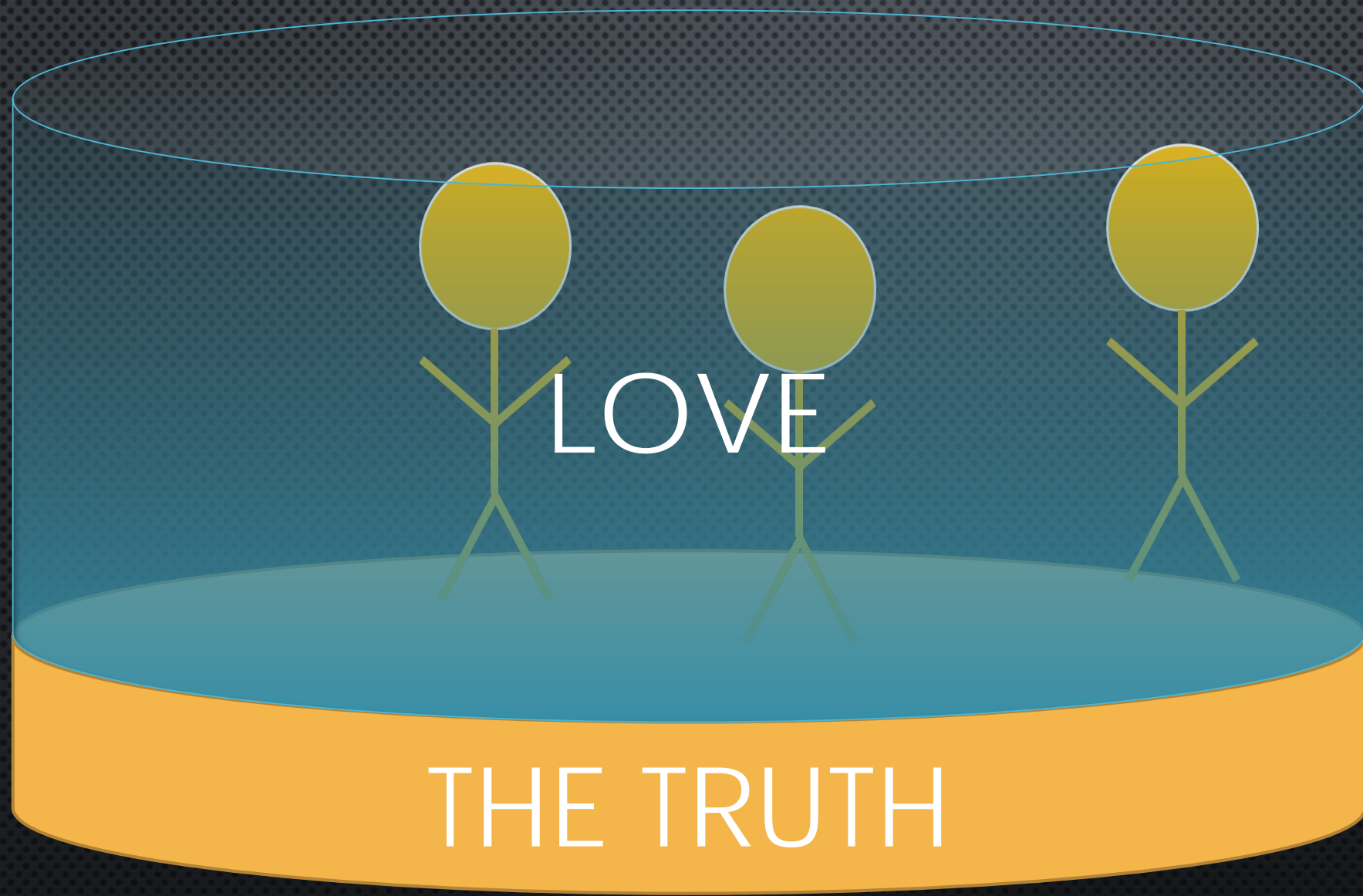
# LOVE

- Based on Truth (1-2)
  - “whom I love in truth”
  - “and not I only ...”















**JOHN R. W. STOTT**

“...since Christian love is founded upon Christian truth, we shall not increase the love which exists between us by diminishing the truth which we hold in common.



**JOHN R. W. STOTT**

In contemporary movements toward church unity we must never compromise the very truth on which alone the true love and unity depend.”



# LOVE

- Based on Truth (1-2)
- Commanded (5; see John 15:12-17)
- Defined: walking according to His commandments (6)
  - John 14:15, 21; 15:10; 1 John 2:3-11; 5:2-3; cf. Deut. 10:12-13; 30:15-20



## WYCLIFFE BIBLE COMMENTARY

“Love is not merely a matter of feeling; it is the action of doing the will of God.”



# TRUTH

- Basis for Love (1-2)
- Abides *in* us (2a)
- Will be *with us* forever (2b; 1 Cor. 13:13)
- Guidelines for life (4)
  - Walking = continual conduct, obedience
  - *Commanded* -> responsibility



## CONTENT OF “THE TRUTH”

- ‘Acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh’ (7)
  - Acknowledge – *say the same thing; confess; declare openly*
  - Jesus Christ – God-very-God
  - Coming in the flesh – man-very-man



# CONTENT OF “THE TRUTH”

- ‘the teaching of Christ’ (9)
  - What Jesus taught (see Matt. 18:19)
  - Confirmed by the apostles (Heb. 2:3)
  - Continued by the apostles (Acts 2:42)



# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- Many deceivers have gone out
  - Deceiver – *leads others astray*
  - How? False doctrine
    - Truth: Jesus is the God-Man
    - Denial destroys salvation
- Gone out ... from the church?



# WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

## 1. Watch yourselves! (8)

- Mark 13:21-23
- Don't *run ahead* of the teaching of Christ
  - Grow *in* it—not past it
  - No 'secret knowledge' for maturity



# WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

## 2. Send them away (10-11)

- Hospitality (fellowship) is conditional
- Not talking about brief conversations
- *Room and board*, promoting, aiding, encouraging, supporting financially



# WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- That you do not lose ... but that you may receive (8)
  - Reward (future) – Matt. 5:11-12; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; Rev. 22:12
  - Participation with deceivers will result in loss of eternal reward



# WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- Does not have God (9)
  - NOT SAVED?!
  - Fellowship, intimacy, fruit
    - John 14:21-24; 31
    - John 15:7-10



## SO WHAT?

- We need both love and truth
  - Love is guided by truth; truth is expressed in love
  - Growth requires both (Eph. 4:14-15)



## SO WHAT?

- We need to know the truth
  - Study! There are no shortcuts
  - Community! We need to talk
- We need to be on guard constantly
  - Rom. 16:17-18; Titus 1:5-16