

**THE QUESTION:** What should believers do when they are confronted with or approached by false prophets, preachers, or teachers?

### TWO WORDS STAND OUT

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

- To live \_\_\_\_\_ is an act \_\_\_\_\_
- *“We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.”* EPH 4:15
- Believers are charged to \_\_\_\_\_ these two attributes that should characterize our faith in Christ

*“Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.”* 1 JOHN 4:1

- We must be \_\_\_\_\_ as to who gets your attention, affection, and appreciation

*“<sup>8</sup>Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.”* (v. 8)

- We must be \_\_\_\_\_ as to who keeps your attention, affection, and appreciation

*“If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don’t invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement.”* (v. 10)

- We must be \_\_\_\_\_ about pursuing truth and love simultaneously

*“Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work.”* (v. 11)

### WHY IS JOHN SO POINTED IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS

- It can cost you your \_\_\_\_\_
- *“Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.”* (v. 9)

*“Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work.”* (v. 11)

*“Test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good.”*  
1 THESS 5:21

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”* 2 TIM 3:16-17

### KEY TAKEAWAYS...

- Love and truth must be maintained in perfect \_\_\_\_\_
- When addressing a problem of Christian \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, believers must emphasize both truth and love
- Truth should always be \_\_\_\_\_ in love
- Love should always be \_\_\_\_\_ by truth

[JESUS] *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”* JOHN 14:6