

## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS FROM 2 JOHN

How to live a life that counts for something great!

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In order to make our lives count for something great, especially given the post-Christian context in which we are imbedded, three timeless truths from 2 John need to be embraced as a way of life (virtue): (1) Know the Truth (vv. 1-3); (2) Practice the Truth (vv.4-6); (3) Protect the truth (vv.7-13). Yet, I suspect for many of us, our impact falls short of what it could be given in the manner in which we approach activities on a daily basis. Here are five anemic qualities that affect our impact in the lives of others, our community, & even our legacy:

(1) When we pursue our daily activities in a mindless, mechanical way whereby we are not intentional in honoring God. We may even think about Him while choosing not to honor Him.

Be intentional in daily living, always asking:  
*“God, what will bring you the most glory?”*

(2) When we go about trying to honor God in a random, disorganized, inconsistent “hit & miss” approach.

Know who you are in Christ, sensitive to your ever-changing context, & be strategic, disciplined, & holistic in your approach.

(3) When we reduce our personal worship or affections to God into a quiet time, a personal moment of devotion, a radio or podcast listen, or a Sunday morning service.

God is to be worshipped in every area & ever manner of life. No secular/sacred divisions in thought & life.

(4) When we reduce our need for God in daily living to a certain point in time like a crisis, a special request, a difficulty, or some other precarious situation.

Be controlled by the Holy Spirit in every moment of daily living:  
Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16-18.

(5) Imbalance: We fail to make our lives count for something great if we *agape* love God (pursue personal piety) but fail to *agape* love others. *Agape* love is committing our will to the true good of others. Or we *agape* love others with greatness (e.g., meeting their practical needs) but fail to *agape* love God from out of our whole heart (deep-seated affection), soul (self-conscious thought life), mind (think, discern, & judge well), and strength (bodily & emotional powers). In either case, our impact will short of what it could be. Holistic balance is needed: Love God & love others (Mark 12:28-34).