

The Truth Summary and Questions

On this special CNY weekend, we continued through 1 John. In chapter 2, the Elder warns the church about the antichrists that were distorting truth and leading people astray. The church had allowed Greek philosophy and Gnostic beliefs that questioned the divinity of Jesus to confuse believers and John implores the church to hold onto the core doctrine of Jesus being the Messiah.

With the majority of us having grown up in the Chinese culture, we must ask ourselves the question: have we let any cultural beliefs replace Jesus' role as our Saviour? As we share blessings and distribute red packets to each other, have we also adopted the culture's obsession with face and fortune? Has our family-heavy emphasis on life, and the honour-shame culture that comes with it, caused us to put too much value on what social status, health and wealth mean to us?

1. How would you say the honour-shame culture played out in your family and upbringing?
2. When was the last time you felt embarrassed, humiliated or shame in front of others? How did you respond?
3. Which cultural beliefs and values do you think you've been at risk of idolising and placing above God? (e.g. Face? Health? Wealth? Status? Achievements? Family? Or any others you can think of?