

Series "Following After God"
"The Discerning Life"
1 John 4:1-6
Study-11

ABC World News: Dec 10, 2009, Americans Surprisingly Flexible About Religion and Faith: "A La Carte Religion"

1 John 4:6

Gen 3:5

Romans 1:22

1 Cor 2:14

Our Biblical Love is based upon our Biblical Belief in the Truth.

- 1. Verse 1 – Test - Indwelling Divine Spirit**
- 2. Verses 2-3 – Test - Confession Of The Divine Lord**
- 3. Verse 4 – Test - Presence Of The Divine Life**
- 4. Verses 5-6 – Test - Authority Of The Divine Word**

1. Verse 1 – Test - Indwelling Divine Spirit:

Beloved – a term of endearment; "Dear, well loved"

1 John 3:11-4:21 Maintaining Love:

We are to Love Sacrificially:

We are to Live Righteously:

We are to Believe Biblically:

1 John 3:24

John 14:17

John Gives 2 Commands:

1. The Command - Do Not Believe Every Spirit: do not believe every spirit; the word believe – present imperative "to stop having faith in, to stop giving credit to every teacher"

A spirit can mean an evil, demonic spirit – 1 Tim 4:1-3

A spirit can mean attitudes – Gal 6:1

1 Cor 2:12

2. The Command - Test The Spirits: but test the spirits; The word test – present tense “keep on testing, don’t ever stop”; to test for authenticity, “To test metal to see if it is genuine, testing for a positive result”

1 Thess 5:21

Testing is The Process by which we Use Our Discernment.

2 Cor 10:4-5

Why are we commanded to test the spirits? To see whether they are from God;

Gal 1:8-9

2. Verses 2-3 – Test - Confession Of The Divine Lord:

1 John 4:2

confesses – “to proclaim openly and boldly, to agree with”

Gnostics – (Evil Resides in Matter); “flesh was evil, spirit was good.” (Solution – abuse the flesh; works); (Evil Resides in Mind) Salvation comes through good thoughts. Hell is a mental state.

Gnostic Docetism – Greek (“to seem”); “Jesus only seemed to have a body. Jesus' physical body was an illusion, as was his crucifixion”

Gnostic Cerinthian – “The Christ came to Jesus at baptism, guided him in his ministry, but left him at the crucifixion.” The denial that God came in flesh.

Matt 26:63-64

come - implies the truth of His pre-existence.

has come – perfect tense, so the incarnation is not a temporary union, it’s permanent. Flesh is full humanity.

This test reveals man cannot come to the truth apart from the outside help of the Holy Spirit! 1 Cor 12:3

The Gateway to Truth is not Intellect but One's Will: (Not Information But Disposition) John 7:17

1 John 4:3

and this is the spirit of the antichrist, "against Jesus Christ, or instead of Jesus Christ."

1 John 2:18

3. Verse 4 – Test - Presence Of The Divine Life:

1 John 4:4

You are from God, little children; John has just stated 1 John 4:2

Assured of Victory: and have overcome them;

1 John 5:4

John 16:33

4. Verses 5-6 – Test - Authority Of The Divine Word:

1 John 4:5

Characteristics of Heresy: They are from the world;

James 3:15-18

1 Cor 2:12-14

Characteristics of The Truth: 1 John 4:6

Any Person That Knows God Will Hear The Word of God: he who knows God listens to us;

John 10:27

the spirit of truth is drawn to the Word of God! This is positive response to the teaching of the Word of God!

The Content of the Message – Verses 2-3

The Character of the Audience Attracted – Verses 5-6

and the spirit of error; Is drawn away from the Word of God! Negative response!

Who do we listen to? Do we love and obey God's word?

Application:

1. Test – Indwelling Divine Spirit: Testing is The Process by which we use our discernment. We must determine the origin of instruction.
2. Test – Confession Of The Divine Lord: God must step in and man must yield in order to know the truth.
3. Test – Presence Of The Divine Life: Victory is guaranteed to those in Christ.
4. Test – Authority Of The Divine Word: Only those who belong to God accept and receive His Word.