FIRST JOHN

The Need for Spiritual Discernment // 1 John 4:1-6

Birthmarks of a Believer

- Live **righteously**
- Love **sacrificially**
- Believe **biblically**

Distinguishing Truth from Error
(1 John 4:1-6)

- The **Exhortation** (v. 1)

"Beloved, do not believe every **spirit**, *but test the* **spirits** *to see whether they are from God..."*

Two-fold Command:

- Do not believe every spirit
- Test the spirits

Learn to discern.

Distinguishing Truth from Error

(1 John 4:1-6)

- The **Exhortation** (v. 1)
- The **Evaluation** (v. 2-3; 5-6)

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Three Questions to ask:

1. Is their doctrine/theology accurate?
2.
3.

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2.
3.

What do they believe about Christ?

Theology matters!

Distinguishing Truth from Error
(1 John 4:1-6)

- The **Exhortation** (v. 1)
- The **Evaluation** (v. 2-3; 5-6)

Three Questions to ask:

1. Is their doctrine/theology accurate?
2. How does the world respond to their teaching?
3.

The message of the gospel
is "foolishness" to this world. (1 Cor. 1:18)

Distinguishing Truth from Error

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- The **Exhortation** (v. 1)
- The **Evaluation** (v. 2-3; 5-6)

Three Questions to ask:

1. Is their doctrine/theology accurate?
2. How does the world respond to their teaching?
3. What is their attitude like towards the Word?

You will always be able to spot a false teacher by their handling and treatment of the Scriptures.

Distinguishing Truth from Error

(1 John 4:1-6)

- The **Exhortation** (v. 1)
- The **Evaluation** (v. 2-3; 5-6)
- The **Encouragement** (v. 4)

"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for **he who is in you** *is greater than* **he who is in the world**.*"*

As believers, we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us to guide us unto all truth—take comfort!