

# This Is A Test

(1 Jn.3:19-4:6)

# I. Testing Our Spirit

1 Jn.3:19-24

# 19: By this we know...

- By 'what'? 18: love brethren in deed / truth
  - NOT mere reputation, emotion.
  - NOT religious error, sin.
- Know 'what'? 19: we are of the truth.
- Assurance: reassure, pacify, set at ease...
  - Heart: conscience. Ac.2:37. 2 Co.2.
  - Before Him: God's verdict alone matters.

## 20: Purpose of 19-20 – to reassure us

- Heart: the accuser.
- Us: the defendant. Ps.51
- God: the judge.
  - He knows our heart (desires, struggles)
  - We are imperfect in love
  - He is more merciful than our heart...
    - Ps.139:23-24; Jn.21:...17

## 21: wordplay

- Know . . . Know against (20-21)
- John (writer) uses 'we' and 'us' (Ph.3:12...)
- We know our failures / weaknesses
  - NOT to excuse our sins. 1 Sm.24:5
  - NOT to hide our sins.
- God knows. 1 Co.4:4
- Boldness (2:28). Hb.10:35; Ac.4:13

## 22: a blank check? 1 Jn.5:14

What would righteous person ask for?

- NOT for God to approve our sin...or let it continue.
- NOT to 'cover' our sin (Pr.28:13).
- NOT one time need:
  - Keep on asking...
  - Keep on keeping His commandments...
  - Keep on doing what pleases Him

# What would righteous person ask for?

- **Forgiveness**
- **Wisdom** to recognize danger
- **Honesty** to admit our weakness
- **Strength** to resist temptation
- **Endurance** to remain obedient (22)
  - Mt.26:39

# 23: one command, two facets: faith and love

## 1. Believe in 'Name' of Jesus.

- We believe a statement; a person...

“All that a name implies, of authority, character, rank, majesty, power, excellence, etc.

– Vine.

- All that John says about Him is His Name.
- Mt.6:9 . . . Ac.4:12



# 23: one command, two facets: faith and love

1. Believe in 'Name' of Jesus.
2. Love one another.
  - True faith is expressed in right conduct.

24: keep His commandments  
...abide in Him, and He in him

- Mutual indwelling.

‘Let God be a home to you,  
and you be a home of God’ – Bede

# 24: keep His commandments ...abide in Him, and He in him

- Mutual indwelling.
- What abides in the believer?

1. Word, 2:14
2. Anointing, 2:27
3. Seed, 3:9
4. Love of God, 3:17
5. God, 4:12, 15-16

**(In)** esp. in Paul or John,  
to designate a close  
personal relation – BDAG.

– Into dinosaurs

– In love

– In fashion

1 Jn.2:24.    2 Jn.9

I. Testing Our Spirit  
1 Jn.3:19-24

**II. Testing Other Spirits**  
1 Jn.4:1-6

# 1: 'Don't believe everything you hear' (Prove the spirits)

Test: to reveal deception. Healthy skepticism.

- Cannot determine truth by their . . .
  - Zeal
  - Claims
  - Numbers
  - Sincerity
  - Personality

John expects  
Christians  
to conduct test  
(not 'church officials')

# 1: 'Don't believe everything you hear' (Prove the spirits)

- Why the Test? Many false prophets . . .

Words and actions reveal  
the kind of spirit one is.

- Ac.17:11; 1 Th.5:21; 2 Jn.10-11

## 2: 'This is a test'

“Jesus Christ came in flesh” (= of God).

- “In” flesh, not “into” (Cerinthus).
- “Flesh,” not phantom (Docetics).

3: 'Every spirit that  
does NOT confess...'

Password

Yardstick

- Cerinthus did not admit he was antichrist
- Baptism

Forewarned



# 4: 'YOU' are of God

## John addresses readers

- Have overcome them . . . (rejected their doctrine). Jn.10:5
- Great is He in you than . . .

Our confidence is not in ourselves  
but in Lord and truth

4: 'YOU' are of God

5: 'THEY' (false teachers) are of world

False teachers are of world – satan's domain

- 2 Co.4:4
- World hears them (understand, embrace)
- Truth divides

Why are they popular?

Offer world what it wants. 2 Tim.4

4: 'YOU' are of God

5: 'THEY' are of world

6: 'WE' are of God

He who knows God hears us...

- Sermon – mixed reactions (rage; rejoice)

- Jn.8 · 9

There has never been a  
greater need for discernment  
in Christians

'Truth is like a surgery. It hurts but it heals.  
A lie is like a painkiller. It gives instant  
relief, but has side-effects forever.'