

True or False

1 John 4:1-6

Introduction:

Scripture:

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Key Points:

1. Test the spirits
2. What are the tests?

Outline:

1. Test the spirits.
 - a. Don't believe everything you hear.
 - i. Don't be gullible not everything you hear from a preacher or teacher is truth.
 - ii. We are in an age where beliefs change all the time there are people that believe one thing today and another tomorrow and they get confused and give up on what is true and what isn't.
 - (1) The true God is not a God of confusion.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
 - b. Test weather they are good or bad
 - i. Test- to try to examine.
 - ii. Where to we go to test them?
 - (1) We go to the truth (Gods word) do they line up with what the apostle taught? Do they line up with what is written in Gods word
 - (2) Examine what you hear. There are no new apostles and there will never be any new apostles. Jesus only picked 12.
 - iii. We must test the spirits because the false teachers are already here, they're not coming they are here now in full force.
 - iv. John isn't the only one who warns us.
 - (1) Jesus Matthew 7:15
 - (2) Peter 2 Peter 2:1-3
 - (3) Paul 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

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- v. No matter where we hear teaching or preaching we must test it. Yes from the pulpit, Sunday school class, radio and yes even the T.V.
 - c. Well then what are the tests? John gives us several.
2. What are the tests?
- a. Do they confess that Jesus came in the flesh?
 - b. Do they preach or teach Christ crucified?
 - c. As followers of Christ we should believe the teachings of the only apostles that Christ had chosen.
 - d. The only way that we can know what the apostles taught is to get into the word of God and know it.
 - i. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - (1) When we know God we will no the difference between truth and error.
 - ii. Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Conclusion:

If we are willing to test the spirits then we will find that we can overcome the false teachers that have come into the world and bombard us everyday. Have you fallen for the false teaching have you found yourself listening to this false teaching? I urge you to test the spirits compare what they are saying with the word of God. These false teachers refuse to bring people to the cross of calvary. Do you need to come to the cross? Do you need this Jesus that came for the forgiveness of sin do you desire to join this body of believers that aren't afraid to test the spirits to see if they are true or false? Let today be the first day of a new life.