

How Do You Know?

Current Message Series from 1 John



A Call to Discernment

1 John 4:1-6

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

**and every spirit that does not confess
Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of
the antichrist, which you heard was
coming and now is in the world already. 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.**

5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The One Command

Don't believe everything you hear.

2 Peter 2:1

“But false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies.”

Two questions to help us discern

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1) What do they say about Jesus?

Verses 2 and 3

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.”

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1) What do they say about Jesus?

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- 1) What do they say about Jesus?
- 2) Do they teach from the world or from the Bible?

Verse 5

“They [the false teachers] are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.”

1 Timothy 6:9

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.”

Galatians 4:13

“You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first.”

Verse 6

“We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

1 John 1:3

**“that which we have seen and heard we
proclaim also to you, so that you too may
have fellowship with us.”**

Two questions to help us discern

- 1) What do they say about Jesus?
- 2) Do they teach from the world or from the Bible?