



DISCERNING THE SPIRITS
1ST JOHN 4:1-6
NOVEMBER 15, 2020
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I. Introduction

False teachers and false doctrines will have some very significant consequences for our eternity so being able to distinguish truth from falsehood is a big deal.

II. Critical Testing (v. 1)

- a. Following the wrong _____
- b. The most _____ deception

III. Confirming Words (vv. 2-3)

- a. We are all _____!
- b. God makes the _____

IV. Clearly Distinguished (vv. 4-6)

- a. Multiple _____ of faith
- b. What is your news _____ for the things of God?

V. Conclusion

Stay alert! There are many false messages which are not grounded in the saving Gospel, giving people a false hope, that will end in a damning result.



CEFC Sermon-Based Growth Group

Week: November 15, 2020

Title: Discerning the Spirits

Text: 1st John 4:1-6

Kick Starters...

1. Share a time when you were 'taken' only to find out you were deceived? How did that feel?
2. How does maturing (in anything) help us to become more and more discerning in life? (Hint: Experience=knowledge + time)

Entertain the text

3. Read the text out loud and discuss/list/highlight any significant words or observations. Make notes in your Bible to help you recall anything important to revisit or pray over. Use cross-Scripture texts as is helpful.

Engage the text

4. What does it mean to 'test the spirits'? Why is it important to do so (cf. Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:21-22)

5. Jesus made it clear how to recognize wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15-17). How can we tell phony teachers apart from genuine ones?
6. False teachers are not new (Deut. 18:15-22). Read 1st Tim. 4:1-2. What was Paul saying and what was his warning?
7. We are brothers and sister IN TRUTH Himself—that's Jesus Christ. Why have so many churches minimized biblical teaching for the sake of 'belonging'? What is the ultimate to all who follow such teaching?
8. The source of truth is not us, it's God. Jesus said so in John 14:6. What happens when we let others' teaching deny such truths as the incarnation, deity of Christ, atonement of Christ, empty tomb, etc?
9. Every false teacher claims to be speaking for God. How do we prevent ourselves from being misled by such statements?

Execute the text

10. There is spiritual truth. There is spiritual falsehood. Being able to discern them is not simply a matter of intellectual capability—it also involves wisdom.