

Message #16**I John 4:1-6**

There is gullibility among people when it comes to religious things that are absolutely bizarre. In fact, it is satanic.

THE BELIEVER WHO HAS REAL FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD WILL BE ONE WHO CAREFULLY ANALYZES AND DISCERNS WHAT RELIGIOUS PEOPLE SAY BECAUSE HE REALIZES THERE ARE MANY FALSE PEOPLE AND RELIGIONS IN THE WORLD.

COMMAND #1 – The command against gullibility. **4:1a**

Just because one says they are led by the Spirit does not mean they really are.

The verb “Do not believe” is a negative prohibition with a present tense imperative. What this means is that action which is in progress is being commanded to stop.

Now a true prophet was one who spoke by inspiration of the Spirit of God. God would supernaturally enable His true prophet to speak inspired truth. In John’s mind, one who professed to be a prophet was either empowered by God’s Spirit or by a satanic spirit.

COMMAND #2 – The command to test. **4:2**

We have not only been commanded to not be gullible in the defensive, but to test in the offensive. The word “test” is one that means to put something to a test, to try something so that you may prove it.

Now there are basically two main tests we can run on people to determine whether or not they are truly from God. Both tests are to be given to the same person.

(Test #1) - The Christological test. **4:2-3**

The test is simple: every person who is willing to testify that Jesus Christ is the God/man, who has come in the flesh in the full manifestation of God, is from God. Isaiah 9:6 predicted that a child would be born who was God!

Mark this and mark this thought well—false teachers will ultimately deny the deity of Jesus Christ. They will say flattering things about Him. They may talk nicely and compliment Him, but they will deny His deity. If they are not “for” Christ and true doctrine, they are against Christ—an antichrist.

(Test #2) - The hearing test. **4:5-6**

This test takes a little longer to give, but here it is.

If the person agrees to the doctrine of Jesus Christ and then listens to us who know God, then we can accept this person. If, on the other hand, they have a hearing with the world but will not adhere to us, they are not from God.

J. Vernon McGee used to say I do not care whether several thousand people come to your church –that isn't important–what is important is the message being given out.

Here is how this practically works. Someone comes into the fellowship who claims they are a person of God. We listen and first examine them concerning their Christology. If they pass that test, we give them another—who listens to them and how they listen to us.

If they are willing to come under the teaching of the Word of God and are willing to listen to us who know we know God, then we can pretty much determine the person is right with God. If, on the other hand, they come into the fellowship and are not willing to listen to us, then they have a problem.

- 1) If someone comes into the fellowship whose Christology is not true, they are the spirit of the antichrist.
- 2) If someone comes into the fellowship who's Christology appears to be true, they perhaps are right with God and need to be put to a further test.
- 3) If someone comes into the fellowship who's Christology appears to be true, but they are only listened to by people in the world, they are not true.
- 4) If someone comes into the fellowship who's Christology appears to be true, but they will not listen to us who know doctrine, they are not true.

Now you may say I am so confused. What chance do I have to figure this out?

Look carefully at **verse 4**. You are from God and you have one greater in you than is in the world. You will not be overcome by any of these deceptive shysters if you are continually under the Word of God, growing and learning. You have God's Spirit in you and greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

I believe this verse guarantees that the true elect of God cannot possibly be permanently deceived or duped, especially when one is in fellowship with God.

What is it that you believe about Jesus Christ? Do you believe that He and He alone can save you from your sins? Do you believe that He came to this world and died on a cross and rose the third day as proof of your justification? Believe only in Jesus Christ and you will be saved.