

1 John # 15
4-27-11

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DISCERNING TRUTH FROM ERROR
(1 John 4:1-6)

I. DISCERNING TRUTH FROM ERROR

A. Don't _____ Every Spirit of Teaching Out There (4:1a)

1. What do we mean by the word "spirit"?

Matt. 7:15-23 & 12:33-37

2. John is **warning** against every type of _____ thinking.... any manifestation of the spirit of _____ ... **cannot be** of the _____ !

B. Beloved, _____ or _____ the Spirits (4:1b)

"test" dokimazo =

1. John seeks to caution or warn the believers....are these "spirits" of the Spirit of _____ or _____?

John 17:17, 8:32; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 19:7-10; 1 Peter 1:22-23; 2 Timothy 2:25-26

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:19-21

1 Corinthians 1-2

- Why would this testing of the spirits be necessary? (4:1c)
- Who are the false prophets?

2. What was the test that determined truth from error? (4:2) "*By this you can _____ the Spirit of God*"

a. Every spirit that _____ that Jesus Christ has come in the _____ is of God! (4:2b)

b. Those who do not confess Jesus as the Christ are _____ of _____! (4:3a)

- What would be the *source* of this spirit? (4:3b)

3. Behind every false teaching is a _____ spirit of some kind! (1 Cor. 10:16-21)

C. John's Encouragement in Light of the Situation (4:4)

1. Remember your source is _____ . You are "of" God.

2. Remember you are an _____ in _____ .

3. Remember He who is in you is _____ than he who is in the world!

- What does all this mean?

D. The Outcome of the Conflict (4:5-6)

1. There are 3 groups addressed in this section: "*you, they/them & we*"

a. **You** refers to the _____ of the epistle

b. **They/them** refers to those who hold to an _____ attitude

c. **We** refers to the _____ & their teaching

2. There are 2 philosophies being presented: a _____ philosophy & _____ philosophy.

3. They are _____ this world—their whole perspective is _____ in origin & character

Therefore they _____ as of the world—they speak on the world's level of _____

The world _____ them—because they speak their _____.

4. In contrast to them.....

We are of _____ — we are _____ believers

He who knows God _____ us—believers are _____ for _____.

He who is not of God isn't capable of hearing nor understanding _____.

It is only through the HS that we can discern the Spirit of _____ & the spirit of _____

* Do you have ears to hear & discern the "spirits" of our day?