

KNOW THAT YOU KNOW GOD

(A Study through 1 John)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 14/15, 2020 Ray Davis

CHARACTERISTICS OF FELLOWSHIP

“Test the Spirits” 1John 4:1-6

It is not always easy to know who you can trust. It is not always easy to distinguish the good guys from the bad guys as the movies would lead you to believe. Truth and error are not as obvious as we would like them to be primarily because Satan masquerades as an angel of light (2Cor11:14). The battlefield is our minds and what we believe (2Cor4:4, 11:3-4). If you don't learn to be discerning between truth and error, you will inevitably be victimized (John8:31-32, 10:10; 2Cor10:3-5).

What's the Big Idea? A Command to be Discerning! v1a; Heb5:14; Matt7:1-6

It is the difference between...

- Compassion motivated anger and contempt motivated anger. Eph4:26-27
- Focusing on the problem or focusing on the person.
- What you are trying to defend and what are you trying to destroy.

Why Should We Be Discerning? Because false teaching is a big problem! v1b; 1Tim4:1-2; Matt7:15-16

You must be discerning when...

- Prolonged involvement with another person is being considered. 1Cor15:33
- There are problems within the body of Christ. 1Tim1:3-5; 1Cor5:12; Gal6:1-2
- Leadership positions are being determined. 1Tim3; Titus1; 1Pet5
- You are distinguishing truth from error. Heb5:14

How Should We Be Discerning?

- ✓ The Jesus Test: What do they say about Jesus? Vv2-3; Mark13:22

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, hypostatic union, sinless life, miracles

and teachings, His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and His personal, visible return to earth. We believe that in His first coming, Jesus bore our judgement and inaugurated the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God. In His second coming He will bring judgement and consummate His Kingdom. John 1:14-18; Luke 1:18-20; Hebrews 4:15; Rom5:8-11; 1Corinthians15:1-8; Ephesians 1:20; Mark 1:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- ✓ The Holy Spirit Test: What do they say about the Holy Spirit? v4; 1Pet1:3; John16:14

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment; and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher and Guide. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of the Biblical gifts of the Spirit. John 15:26,16:8; Titus 3:5; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13; John 14:16; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

- ✓ The Bible Test: What do they say about the Bible? vv5-6; 2Tim3:16-17

We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired and the infallible rule of faith and practice; and that they are to be interpreted according to their context and purpose and in reverent obedience to the Lord who speaks through them in living power. 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Romans 15:4; James 1:22

Growing Notes

- 1) Why are truth and error not as obvious as we would like them to be (2Cor11:14)? What is the battlefield when it comes to discerning truth from error (2Cor4:4, 11:3-4)? If we don't become discerning how might we be victimized (John8:31-32, 10:10; 2Cor10:3-5)?
- 2) Read 1John4:1-6. What's the big idea of this text? What is the difference between being discerning and being judgmental (Heb5:14; Matt7:1-6)? Review the three points under this heading.
- 3) Why should we be discerning? Most of the religious and spiritual teaching in America is false teaching (1Tim4:1-2). Do you agree or disagree? Explain. What are the four times you should be discerning?
- 4) How should we be discerning (review the three tests and the theological statements under each one)? Why is our theology about Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Bible so important? What is God speaking to you through this Bible study? Pray.