

False Teachings & Rejection of Truth 1 John 4:1-6

INTRODUCTION

Christianity is not a one-time decision, but a relationship. We have seen in chapters 1-3 of I John that we remain in fellowship with God and his family by confessing our sins, believing God, and obeying His commands, especially the command to love others. Today we learn of discernment.

Main Idea of I John 4:1-6: Recognize that not everyone teaches truth, and not everyone will accept truth, but the God of truth will prevail.

I. Not everyone teaches truth, so we must discern (vs. 1-3)

A. _____ are in the world (vs. 1)

Matthew 24:11 Jesus said “Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.”

1 Corinthians 12:3 ...no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:1-2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

B. True teachers confess that _____ came in the world as the _____ (vs. 2-3)

- Athanasius (296-373) knew that Jesus was fully God incarnate or no Messiah at all.
- From Mark Noll’s book, “Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity,” concerning the Nicene Creed: “...it stands as a bulwark against the persistent human tendency to prefer logical deductions concerning what God must be like and how he must act to the lived realities of God’s self-disclosure.”

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

APPLICATION: What changes do you need to make regarding what you listen to? And since we need to evaluate what we hear based on how it aligns with God's revealed truth, are you studying God's truth so you can properly discern?

II. Not everyone accepts truth (vs. 5-6).

A. Those in the _____ speak as the _____ and are heard by the _____ (vs. 5).

2 Timothy 4:1-5 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

B. Children of _____ are heard by other children of _____ and not by those in the world (vs. 6).

- In 2009, The Barna Group defined a biblical worldview as believing the following:
 - That absolute moral truth exists
 - The Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches
 - Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic
 - A person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works
 - Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth
 - God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today
- Believed by 9% of Americans adults
- Believed by 19% of “born again Christians”

APPLICATION: Know that not everyone will accept the truth, but proclaim it anyway. If you cannot share stories of rejection, then what does that say about your proclaiming? Where does God want you to proclaim this week?

III. The God of truth will prevail (vs 4)

- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10
- “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” I John 4:4

APPLICATION: Where is the spirit of error active in your life trying to kill, steal or destroy? You overcome to the extent that you abide in fellowship with God and share in His victory. How well are you abiding in fellowship with your Creator and His family?

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