



Gospel Community Study Questions

1 John 4:1-6 | Test the Spirits

Key Passages: 1 John 4:1-6; 2 Timothy 3:16

Big Idea: God who is in us is greater than the spirits that are out there

Read and Recap

Read 1 John 4:1-6

Discuss

From the passage and the context we've learned so far in 1 John, why do we need to 'test the spirits'? What is the specific test that John provides in verse 2-3 for the believer to determine if a spirit or teacher is from God or not?

In John's day, the false teachers the church was contending against were the "Gnostics" - religious teachers who deny that Jesus was fully God and fully man. What would be the false teachers that we need to be on our guard against in our day?

What does it mean in verse 3 that "the spirit of the antichrist" is already in the world?

According to verse 4, what is the foundation for the believer's confidence in a world of spiritual opposition? How might the promise that "He who is in you is greater" (verse 4) be an encouragement or comfort to the believer particularly when facing spiritual opposition?

How does John distinguish between those who are "from God" and those who are "from the world" (v. 5-6)?

What practical steps can you take to "test" the teachings, blogs, podcasts, or books you read/listen to?

Coming Up

Next week we will be in 1 John 4:7-21