

Date: May 16, 2021

Title: Assurance: Launch Pad for Righteous Living

Title: "Discerning Truth From Error"

### THE COMMAND TO TEST THE SPIRITS (4:1)

1. The Command is GIVEN (vs. 1a)
2. The REASON is Given (vs. 1b)  
Compare "many antichrist" (2:18) and "many deceivers" (2 John 7)

### THE CRITERION FOR TESTING THE SPIRITS (4:2, 3)

1. The SUBSTANCE of the Confession  
"Jesus is the Christ (the Son of God) come in the flesh."
2. The NATURE of the Confession  
An "open and bold" profession of faith in him as the incarnate Lord
3. The SIGNIFICANCE of the Confession  
The Rock-foundation upon which the church is built (Matt. 16:13-18)

### THE CONFLICT IN TESTING THE SPIRITS (4:4-6)

The pronouns which begin vs. 4-6 (You; They; We) are emphatic in the original (the Greek text) and mark off three groups:

#### PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_. We're living in treacherous times.  
Discernment plays a vital role in surviving such times (1 John 4:1)
2. Know the \_\_\_\_\_ (the whole counsel of God).
3. Know " \_\_\_\_\_ " (8x in the Pastorals).
4. Connect with a \_\_\_\_\_ that has a high view of Scripture.
5. It's the job of the church's \_\_\_\_\_ to guide & guard the ministry (Acts 20:28-30; Tit. 1:9-10).
6. Finally, a strong & healthy church \_\_\_\_\_ is no guarantee of a strong & healthy church \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ from anyone (group) that casts doubt, denies, distorts, or diminishes the truth of God's Word.

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Title: "Love is of God"

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. In this section, the refrain "love one another" occurs \_\_\_\_\_ times.
2. This is the third time John takes up and applies the supreme test of love. Each time the test is more \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Why is reciprocal love the plain duty of Christians? He provides 3 reasons why we must love each other.

#### GOD'S ETERNAL \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 7-8, 16)

John states it twice, saying: "love comes from God" (7); & "God is love" (8, 16).

1. God is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of love.
2. God \_\_\_\_\_ love.

#### GOD'S HISTORIC \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 10, 11)

While the *origin* of love is in the being of God, the *manifestation* of love is in the coming of Christ. Emphasized three times in this paragraph (vss. 10, 11, 14).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of His gift.  
"One and only" indicates His "uniqueness". Christians are adopted sons by grace. Christ, however, is God's Son by nature.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of His gift.  
Not the incarnation, but the atonement is the pre-eminent manifestation of God's love.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of His gift.  
The greatness of His love is seen in the costliness of His self-sacrifice for the wholly undeserving (cp. Rom. 5:7-8).
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of His gift.

#### GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ ACTIVITY OF LOVE (vss. 12-13)

God who is love and has loved still loves, but today His love is seen in and thru our love.

1. Statement: "No one has ever seen God." See John 1:18a
2. Question: How then can He be known? ANSWER: Thru \_\_\_\_\_!