

Love Made New
Truth and Discernment
1 John 4:1-6
August 14

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. [2](#)By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, [3](#)and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. [4](#)Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. [5](#)They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. [6](#)We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Learn to Discern

1. Share a time when discernment or lack of discernment affected your life.
2. Discuss why it is important to have the right foundation when exercising discernment. Use 1 John 4:1-3 as a guide.
3. Discuss the difference in a “me” focused confession and a Gospel focused confession. Use 1 John 4:2-3 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-7 as guides.

Real Evil is in the World

4. What does it take for you to consider something “evil.”
5. Discuss why John labels every spirit that “does not confess Jesus” as the spirit of the antichrist. Use 1 John 4:3-4 and Galatians 2:7 as guides.
6. Discuss the difference in the “wisdom” from false gospels and the Wisdom from Heaven. Use James 3:13-18 as a guide.

What is Your Frame of Reference?

7. Discuss how having the correct frame of reference or point of view can affect our understanding of something.
8. Discuss what it means to “speak from the world” and to be listened to by the world. Use 1 John 4:5, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, and 2 Timothy 4:3-5 as guides.
9. Discuss how we can practice better discernment so that we do not accept powerless gospels and keep Jesus central to our faith.