



Learning to Distinguish the Good Guys from the Bad Guys

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1 John 4:1-6

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REVIEW — Evidences of fellowship with God and one another

The **DOCTRINAL** test — “*if we say ...*” (what we believe)

Test #1 — Do you *confess* Christ and your sin?

The **OBEDIENCE** test — “*if we walk in the light ...*” (how we live)

Test #2 — Do you have a spirit of *loving* obedience to Christ?

The **RELATIONAL** test — “*If we love one another ...*” (how we relate to one another)

Test #3 — Do you love others *like* Christ has loved you?

Note: Why these tests?

INTRODUCTION — Learning to test the spirits (Doctrinal Discernment) — 1 John 4:1

LESSON — Learning to Distinguish the Good Guys from the Bad Guys 4:1-6

I. 1st — YOU MUST HAVE A CATEGORY FOR FALSE TEACHING v. 1

II. 2nd — YOU MUST HAVE CLARITY ABOUT THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST vs. 2-3

4 main errors/false teachings about Christ

- Arianism — Jesus was not fully GOD. It denied his DEITY.
- Docetism — Jesus only appeared to be HUMAN. It denied his HUMANITY.
- Nestorianism — The human and the divine were not UNITED. It denied Jesus was ONE person, but taught He was two different people in one body.
- Eutychianism — The divine and human are all MIXED up. It denied Jesus was one person with TWO distinct natures and taught He was not fully human or divine.

III. 3rd — YOU MUST HAVE A CONFIDENCE IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD v. 4

IV. 4th — YOU MUST HAVE A CAUTION ABOUT WHO YOU LISTEN TO v. 5

V. 5th — YOU MUST HAVE A COMMITMENT TO APOSTOLIC (BIBLICAL) TEACHING v. 6

Applying this to our lives ...