

## **The Real Jesus (1John 4:1-6)**

### **Introduction**

“Do you really believe one word of all that?”

#### **1. We must be discerning (v. 1)**

There’s nothing Christian about being gullible. *Discernment* is a Christian virtue.

We’re constantly told things like 1Thess 5:21, “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (see Rev 2:2, Matt 7:15, Acts 17:11-12, etc).

Christians should be people who are very, very passionate about the truth.

#### **2. We are led by the Spirit of Truth and believe that Jesus “came in the flesh” (v. 2-3)**

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14, see 1:1, 6:33, 8:58).

This is what gives the manger its meaning, the cross its significance, and the empty tomb its power. He can and he will do all of this and much more, because he is God the Son, now made man, made flesh, incarnate for us.

#### **3. The world is led away by the prophets of the world (v. 4-5)**

“If a man will not believe God, he will believe anything” (John Wesley).

#### **4. The world’s prophets are led by the spirit of error and won’t believe the Bible (v. 6)**

Of course, they’ll say other things, like Mohammed and Joseph Smith, that the Christians corrupted the Bible. God says, “The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever” (Psa 12:6-7, see Isa 40:8, Matt 24:35, Isa 8:20).

### **Conclusion**

The truth that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh utterly changes people in real life. The incarnation speaks of God taking shape in real human life. It happened then, and in a similar way, it happens now.

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38-39).