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Morning Service

Jess Stanfield
Teaching Elder

Children of the Truth: Testing the Spirit

What is truth? For Christians the answer should be obvious, but sadly this is increasingly not the case these days. The evangelical community at large is gravitating to a newer deconstructionist interpretation of the Bible in order to attract the 'newer generations' but instead they are only installing Satan's two favorite pillars, error and ignorance.

This is a very dangerous practice and has introduced a lot of error into the body of the Church.. It's also an unnecessary practice. John shows us in his epistle that the truth is essential to be a Christian and truth only come from the Word. As Christians, we are called to constantly ask if we are living in the Truth and Light of the Word, in fact, we are Children of the Truth. So what can we do as a child of the Truth? How do we keep the errors of the world from clouding our views?

Listen along as we go through the characteristics of the Truth in a Christian's life. Does the Truth mark my life?

A Christian will have the following characteristics;

- The World does not know us.
- Has a purifying hope that reaches to God. Effectual.
- Has a right view of sin. Sin is lawlessness.
- Has a genuine love of the brethren a sacrificial love.
- Has a sure confidence of grace.
- Lives a life in the truth.

God's children will exercise a spirit of discernment because God moves in his sphere of Truth, Christ is the Truth, and the Holy Spirit within us is the Truth. We as Christians need to be aware of some of the erroneous theologies that would render us useless to the Kingdom of God. Make no mistake, Satan knows he can't steal your salvation, but he can and will seek to make you useless to the Kingdom by adopting error. Here are some of the common errors and how they are used.

Antinomianism no law..the Law of God is still valid today.

Pits the grace of God against the Law of God. But John clearly says sin is lawlessness and we as Christians need to follow the Law of God.

Mysticism

God speaks to us personally and outside the context of Scripture. The complete interpretation is up to the person and their emotional state.

Neo Gnosticism

This is a popular post-modern view of the church and focuses on individual relationships. It seeks to dismiss anything that would turn anyone of any belief away. They seek to come up with clever apologetics to make Christianity palatable.

Religious Dualism

Separates the religious and secular lives completely. Many of our politicians are happy to say they leave their 'faith' at church on Sunday. The scandals in Washington are a great testament to this view.

Piousness

Teaches the personal activities are sanctifying. This leaves a person's sanctification process completely up to their emotions.

Practical Atheism

Lots of people say they're Christian, but do they act like it? Consider all the attributes of a Christian John shows us, do the 'Christians' you know live up to these standards?

Scripture References

1 John 4:1-21 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because 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, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. (4) You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. (5) They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. (6) We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (8) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (9) By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. (11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. (13) By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. (14) We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. (15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (16) We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (17) By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. (19) We love, because He first loved us. (20) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. (21) And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

1 Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Psalms 51:1-19 For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. (2) Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. (3) For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. (4) Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. (5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. (6) Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. (7) Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (8) Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. (9) Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. (11) Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. (12) Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. (13) *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You. (14) Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. (15) O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise. (16) For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. (17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a

contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. (18) By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. (19) Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Ephesians 4:10-16 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) (11) And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

1 Timothy 3:14-16 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; (15) but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. (16) By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.