



CALL & TEST FOR DISCERNMENT — 1 JOHN 4:1-6

1 CALL: The Command to Test (v.1)

-  “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God...” (1Jn.4:1)
- ▶ That’s a command. Don’t be gullible, be skeptical. False teachers do not like to be examined.

2 CALL: The Need or Reason to Test (v.1)


-  “Because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1Jn.4:1)
- ▶ We are commanded to be discerning because false teaching is so common.

3 TEST: The Way to Test (How to) (v.2-6)

- ▶ We need to know if something comes from the Spirit of God, or the evil world.
- ▶ This is how you can test toward discernment.


A Confession of the Divine Lord (v.2-3)

JESUS: THE GOD-MAN

-  ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. (1Jn.4:2-3)
- ▶ Their doctrine of incarnation. God becomes a partaker of human nature.
 - ▶ What do they say about the incarnation?


B Possession of the Divine Life (v.4)

REGENERATION

-  ⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (1Jn.4:4)
- ▶ Their doctrine of regeneration. Man becomes a partaker of the divine nature.
 - ▶ Look and see their life. Is there demonstration of regeneration?

C Profession of the Divine Law (v.5-6)

GRATEFUL OBEDIENCE

-  ⁵They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1Jn.4:5-6)
- ▶ The world listens to false teachers because they speak from the world. False teachers can be popular.
 - ▶ When you bring the law of God to bear upon them, they do not respond positive toward it.