

That You May Know – 1 John 4:1-6

“We pursue being a disciple making family: *surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.***”

In these verses John lays down a clear test for those who are false teachers. He also shows how believers might be able to discern whether someone is a false teacher. He offers assurance and encouragement for those that are in Christ Jesus. Having the Holy Spirit dwelling within a believer should give us a confidence to face the brokenness of this world. Let's look at a few questions to help drive this passage home.

Discussion Questions* -- *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. There are many warnings about false teachers in the New Testament. John gives us clear directives on recognizing these evil teachers. What are some examples of false teachers in the church today? Why do you think these false teachers are still an issue today? How do we determine between false teachers and people that teach differences of opinion or interpretation on issues that the Bible may not be as specific on (i.e. Christian liberties, worship styles, etc.)
2. As we read this text there is a lot of talk about the “world.” Define the world according to the way you see this in Scripture. How are Christians to engage the world without becoming *of* the world? How do you think the “Church” in the United States is doing with this tension and engaging a broken world?
3. To follow up on question 3, how does 1 John 4:4 play into the equation of how we should engage the world. What ways can this verse help us to have the love that Christ had for a broken world? Where do you need to apply this verse to your life as a believer? Do you find yourself walking in confidence among those that may be against Christ, or do you tend to avoid in fear? What are some ways that we can encourage one another to live in this empowerment? How would you see that the Holy Spirit in the Christian is greater than he who is in the world? What are some examples in your own life?
4. We are called to “test the spirits” and not believe everything we hear. In context in v.6, John points out that we are from God and whoever knows God listens to the apostles. In our day it would be the Word of God itself. This verse points out that through the Word of God we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Why do you think that a consistent diet of the Word of God can be difficult? How would you help someone that desires to grow in this area? What can you do to grow in this area?