

1 Jn. 4:1-6

I. Test the false spirits (1-3)

A. Test the spirits because false prophets exist (1)

1. Don't believe every spirit, but test them (1a-c)
 - a Neg: Beloved, do not believe every spirit (1a)
 - b Pos: But test the spirits, to determine if they are from God (1b-c)
 - 1) But test the spirits (1b)
 - 2) If it is from God (1c)
2. Reason: because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1d)

B. The Doctrine test for the spirits (2-3)

1. By this you know the Spirit of God (2a)
2. Specifically: by whether the spirit confesses Christ or not (2b-3)
 - a Pos: Every Spirit that confesses Christ incarnate is from God (2b-c)
 - 1) Every Spirit confessing Jesus Christ – having come in flesh (2b)
 - 2) This one is from God (2c)
 - b Neg: Those who don't confess Jesus are not from God, but from antichrist (3)
 - 1) Those who don't confess Jesus are not from God (3a-b)
 - a) And every spirit not confessing Jesus (3a)
 - b) This one is not from God (3b)
 - 2) This is the antichrist spirit which you were warned about (3c-f)
 - a) This is the [spirit] of the antichrist (3c)
 - b) That you were warned about, and already experience (3d-f)
 - (1) Which you heard (3d)
 - (2) That it is coming and is already in the world (3e-f)
 - (a) That it is coming (3e)
 - (b) And now is already in the world (3f)

II. God's side is victorious (4-6)

A. You are from God and are victorious (4)

1. Children, you are from God (4a)
2. And you are victorious because your God is greater (4b-d)
 - a And you have overcome him (4b)
 - b Reason: God is greater than the false spirit (4c-d)
 - 1) The One in you is greater (4c)
 - 2) Than the one in the world (4d)

B. The difference between being from God and from the world (5-6)

1. True & False is discriminated by whether they hear the apostles or the world (5-6e)
 - a Neg: The false teachers and those who listen to them are from the world (5)
 - 1) The false teachers are from the world and speak from the world (5a-b)
 - a) These are from the world (5a)

- b) Because of this, they are speaking from the world (5b)
 - 2) And [therefore] the world listens to them (5c)
 - b Pos: John (& the apostles) & those who listen to them are from God (6a-e)
 - 1) We ourselves are from the God (6a)
 - 2) Listening to the apostles' teaching is evidence of knowing God or not (6b-e)
 - a) Pos: The one who knows God listens to us (6b-c)
 - (1) The one knowing God (6b)
 - (2) This one listens to us (6c)
 - b) Neg: The one who does not listen to us is not from God (6d-e)
 - (1) The one who is not from God (6d)
 - (2) This one does not listen to us (6e)
2. Therefore: By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception (6f)