Love PART II (I John 4:1-21)

Test the Spirits

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because many **false prophets** have gone out into the world. **By this you know the Spirit of God**: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh **is of God**, and 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. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world**. **They are of the world**. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. **We 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**." I John 4:1-6 NKJV

I John 4:1-6

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Test the Spirit

The single greatest test to know if the "voice" you are V hearing is from Yahweh or from some "other" source is if what you are hearing is consistent with the Holy Scriptures. There is nothing wrong with "new revelation" or "uncovering the mysteries of the Kingdom" but you will never discover something out of alignment with God's Word. As a matter of fact, we are called to discern the deep things of God, by the Spirit (See 1 Corinthians 2). And Y'shua was sure to tell us in the upper room discourse (see John 13-17 which happens to be the longest recoded discourse of Y'shua's words) that He did not yet reveal all that needed to be revealed because mankind was not ready yet. He taught us that the Holy Spirit would come and reveal all truth. But be sure, if that "truth" is somehow inconsistent with the Scriptures then it is a "different spirit." Earlier in John 5 and 12, He also explains how you can know "who you are hearing." He says we can know by recognizing whose words are being

spoken, the Father's or man's; and who is receiving the glory, the Father or man, and through whose authority the words spoken, the Father or man!

False Prophets

- False prophets and false prophesies were not just a problem in the first century, but a problem throughout Israel's history. Go ahead and get a small sample of how dangerous they are by reading Exodus 13 and especially Jeremiah 23. The telltale sign of deceptive teachers and false prophets is this: you can go ahead and follow the dictates of your own heart, know you are doing so, and still expect Yahweh's blessings! The end for these pseudo spiritual leaders is certain destruction and unfortunately those who follow them will inherit the same fate!
- "By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh **is of God**, and 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." I John 4:2-3 NKJV

<u>Ine Spirit of the Antichrist</u>

For a thorough teaching about the spirit of the Antichrist see: Do Not Love the World—PART II

Is the spirit of of God or not? Is the spirit of of God or not?

- The idea of denying that Y'shua was even born is just another facet of the spirit of the Antichrist. Of course, anything or anyone that denies any aspect of who Y'shua is, the Messiah, the son of God, the Savior of the world, the Lamb of God, His divine nature, the "obedient son" part of the trinity, or that He even existed, born as a man, is an Antichrist spirit.
- When we examine today's greatest assault against the one true God, Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, it is the very denial of His image, the fact that He even "is". Think about it; in the beginning, the Creator of all things, had the desire for humans, His "greatest creation", the one creation made "in His image", to KNOW HIM and His nature. How can we, with our finite minds, know an infinite God, an omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, transcendent God? How can we understand His image?
- ☑ In humans terms, we can do so by understanding family.
 A man, a woman, and a child. That is why He created a man, then from out of man He created woman, and told

them to be fruitful and multiply. This is the image of God, a human family as the shadow or pattern of the divine family (the trinity).

- ☑ If you deny the Son, you deny the image of the true
 God.
- If you deny there is male and female, you deny the image of the true God. (The American Medical Association just published a statement recommending the gender choice be removed from all US birth certificates, stating that there is no such thing as a "birth gender!")
- If you deny the critical importance of marriage, you deny the image of the true God.
- If you deny the birth of children, you deny the image of the true God.
- ☑ Can you see it? The predominate attack today is against these things which translates to the very belief that "there is no God!" This is the ultimate Antichrist spirit.
- ☑ This is what is being proffered by a large contingent of leadership in our nation:
 - ☑ There is no such thing as certainty about being a male or female. It is all a social construct and the

- decision about what "gender" you are or if you are any gender at all is a personal decision. Any thoughts to the contrary of this is intolerance.
- Marriage is therefore not necessarily between a man and a woman and can be between any two of anything. And really, marriage is an outdated religious ritual anyway, so it really is not needed at all.
- ☑ The birth of children is suspect and if a "person" becomes pregnant then carrying that child to term is completely up to the pregnant person. "My body my choice" is the mantra of the day and the unborn child has zero rights to live. So, much for "be fruitful and multiply." (FYI: "My body my choice" does not apply to your rights to refuse vaccines. In that case you belong to the state!)
- "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We 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." I John 4:4-6 NKJV

☑ We are of God

Overcome the world: it's easy to look out into the 2021 world and feel overwhelmed by all the evil and lies being propagated. Let me make it as simple as possible here; those of Yahweh, who believe in this one true God, His Holy Spirit and His Son, win! We have overcome the world and all the lies in it! So, take a breath and don't be carried away with fear and anxiety.

be surprised? Think about it! It's really quite simple. Any philosophy, belief system, political agenda, party-line, religious belief, etc. that denies any aspect of the Father, Spirit, and Son, is living with some level of deception. The more they deny, the more deceived they are and the wilder and more disgusting their agenda is. If you want to understand why the political agenda today seems so utterly bizarre, how the lies could be so obvious and yet they seem so comfortable and natural spewing them, you must look no further than this: They deny all three aspect

- of what makes a family, and thus the divine family! Not one or the other do they deny, BUT ALL THREE!
- And it reaches the height of insane as some of these "devils" do so while at the same time espousing that they are Christians.
- ✓ Let me direct you to this teaching to get a full scope on this utter madness and what is in-store for those who do whatever they want and think that Yahweh will bless them anyway! <u>Easy Entanglements</u>

■ He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world...

You have Christ in you, and that is all that really matters in the end. Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). He has overcome the world (John 16:33) and therefore we have overcome the world!

The Spirit of truth and the spirit of error

- ☑ He hears us because we know the Holy Spirit: The Spirit
 of Truth (John 16:13)
 - ☑ Truth = reality: reality check—there is no such thing as gender from birth! What person who has truth in them could even fathom such an insane belief?
- He does not hear them and they know only the spirit of error: There father is the devil who is the father of lies (John 8:44).

Knowing God through Love

"Beloved, let us **love one another**, for **love is of God**; and everyone who loves is born of God and **knows God**. He who does not love **does not know God**, for **God is love**. In this **the love of God was manifested** toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through Him**. 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. Beloved, **if God so loved us**, **we also ought to love one another**." I John 4:7-11 NKJV

I John 4:7-11

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☑ Love is of God

Let's be clear; if you do not know this one true God you will never know true love. You may call other things love, like affection, attraction, friendship, intimacy, etc. But they are NOT love. Love is of Yahweh; Yahweh is love and if you don't have Him you don't know what love is.

Know God; Know Love

Since God is love, when we know Him we know love.

When He is in us, love is in us. Only then can we comprehend the magnitude of this thing called love. (You can see all sixteen facets of love in 1 Corinthians 13.)

Mo God; No Love

It then stands to reason that if you do not know God you cannot know love. Herein lies the great deception. You cannot love someone if you do not have God in you!

☑ God is Love

- This is the often twisted concept that the false religions apprehended to homogenize God into a plethora of false gods (especially New Age beliefs). If you redefine love into any form you please, and then attribute those attributes to yourself, you can then conclude that you "have God" in you.
- This is a wonderfully convenient way to blend religious beliefs, and even some beliefs that don't even identify as religions, into one ecumenical soup. "All roads lead to the same place and we get to choose whichever attracts us!"
- This, however is the exact OPPOSITE of Christianity which says, "the road is narrow that leads to life, and the road is wide that leads to destruction (See Matthew 7).

"In this **the love of God was manifested** toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might **live through Him**." I John 4:9 NKJV

☑ How is the love of God manifested?

This idea is paramount to your Christian faith. The very reason we can experience love, or God in us, is because Yahweh sent His Son. In other words, the "Son" part of the divine family became a human and then He took us as His bride. This is how love was demonstrated. But, something more happened because of this sacrifice...

- If you read John 16 you will see that the promise of the Holy Spirt is the key to why Y'shua came, was sacrificed, and had to "go away". The Spirit came and then dwelled in us. This is how we literally have "Christ in us!" And it is because of this that we can live through Him.
 - ✓ We no longer live, but Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20).
 - ✓ We have become the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthian 6:19).

"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. Beloved, if **God so loved us, we also ought to love one another**." I John 4:10-11 NKJV

☑ He loved us first! Then we love Him!

- There is only one order in which this could happen. It should be obvious by now. We cannot even know what love is without God being in us, therefore He had to love us first before we could love Him.
- ☑ We love Him because He first loved us (I John 4:19).

Propitiation

This love showed up in Christ, not only that He came in human flesh, but that He then died and became the atonement for all of our sins!

Because God loves us, we should love one another!

- ☑ What do we do with this love that we now have available? You give it away!
- ✓ You can be recognized as His disciples by demonstrating this love (John 13:35).

Seeing God through Love—God Abiding in Us

"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we

know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." I John 4:12-16 NKJV

I John 4:12-16

"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another,
God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By
this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He
has given us of His Spirit." I John 4:12-13 NKJV

☑ If we love one another God abides in us!

Think about this beautiful connection. God is love and when we have the Son we have the Father. When we have God in us we have love in us which means God is abiding in us! We can look on and witness who has this going on by how they love others.

When God abides in us, love is perfected in us!

✓ Love kept to oneself is not love at all. It is perfected only in its demonstration. It is not a mental assent or concept.It is an action.

- ☑ The ultimate demonstration would be to die for another.

 Obviously, that is what Christ did. And He instructs us to do the same.
 - ✓ No greater love is there than this—lay down your life (John 15:13)!
 - ☑ Husbands ought to love their wives like this (Ephesians 5:25-33).
- ✓ We know we abide in Him because we have the Holy Spirit
 - This ties it altogether. We have Christ in us; we have God in us; we have love in us; we have the Holy Spirit in us.

 The Spirit is the witness that this is all true!
- "And we have **seen and testify** that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever **confesses** that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." I John 4:14-15 NKJV
 - **We see and must testify! We see**
 - We not only have seen and experienced all this; but we are charged to testify of these things!

- This entire "abiding thing" begins with your born-again experience. When you confess Y'shua as the Son of God, the Spirit comes and dwells in you!
- "And we have **known and believed** the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and **he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him**." I John 4:16 NKJV

☑ Know and Believe!

Abide in love = Abiding in God because God is Love and He abides in you!

The Consummation of Love

"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." I John 4:17-19 NKJV

I John 4:17-19

"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world." I John 4:17 NKJV

Boldness in the day of judgement

■ Bottom line: if you are born again you can be bold when facing judgement because you have been atoned for. If not, then it won't be pretty!

KEY: as He is so are we!

- ☑ God's love has been perfected when we LOOK LIKE HIM!
- "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." II Corinthians 3:18 NKJV
- "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear,
 because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been
 made perfect in love." I John 4:18 NKJV
 - If you have fear, it is a sign you have not been made perfect in love!
 - Fear and love are opposites.
 - "Love is the standard by which every thought and action is measured. It is manifested altogether as patience, kindness, admiration, trust, modesty, humility, and meekness. It is gracious, polite, altruistic, peaceful, soothing, virtuous, joyful, righteous, and truthful. It

- displays fierce loyalty; believes, hopes, and endures all things; and always succeeds and thrives, no matter what. It will never fail you!" {Paraphrase 1 Corinthians 13:4-8}
- ☑ Torment is a paralyzing fear of the unknown and a feeling of impending disaster filled with anxiety. Love is knowing God and being known by God. It completely annihilates fear!
- "We love Him because He first loved us." I John 4:19 NKJV
 - **<u>Get the order of business straight!</u>**
 - As stated earlier, there is no other definition of love than what the Creator of the Universe gives us. If we redefine love, we can convince ourselves that we can somehow find God on our own terms. But we CANNOT. He must first love us!

Obedience by Faith

"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." I John 4:20-21 NKJV

I John 4:20-21

"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." I John 4:20-21 NKJV

<u>Ine True Test!</u> <u>Ine True Test!</u>

- You cannot love God and it not show up in how you love others.
- ☑ It should actually be EASIER to love one another because
 you can see, hear, and touch one another!
 - Mow can you love the invisible if you cannot even love the visible?
- **☑** It's not a suggestion...
 - It's a command! If you say you love God YOU MUST love your brother!

NEXT WEEK

Spirit, Water, & Blood (1 John 5:1-13)