

Truth & Love in 1 John

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Week 7
Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI

Ours is the Spirit of Truth (4:1-6)

The command of the Father and of the Son is to _____ in God and to _____ one another. (3:23)

4:1-6 elaborates on _____

4:7-21 elaborates on _____

Just as we should not love _____, we should also not _____ every spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a source of _____, but there are other 'spirits.' (There is Spirit and there are spirits.)

Three kinds of 'spirits'

1. The representative of the inner life of _____.
2. The divine Spirit of _____.
3. The malign spirits that are anti(against) _____.

Behind every prophet is a 'spirit' and behind every 'spirit' is either God or the devil.

True spirits / false spirits

Of God / not of God

In the world / not of the world

Coming to deliver from sin / coming to deceive and destroy

How do we "test the spirits"? (vs 2-3)

What does the spirit 'confess' about Jesus?

The Spirit of Truth vs the Spirit of Falsehood

What does it mean that Jesus has come 'in the flesh'?

Apostle's Creed – *“conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate...”*

Nicene Creed – *“who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man...”*

Athanasian Creed – *“But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity. Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ.”*

To oppose that Jesus is “the Christ” and “the Son of God” who has “come in the flesh” to “atone for the sins of the world” is the spirit of anti-(against)-Christ.

The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world!

They (the false prophets / anti(against)Christ spirits)

- Are from the world / speak like the world / are listened to by the world

We (the true believers / children of God)

- Are from God / speak for God / those who know God listen to us

“We love because He first loved us!” 1 John 4:19

Feel free to email with questions, insights, or God-sightings: pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org.