

Essential Fellowship: 8 of 10

“Discernment”

Cornerstone Church Of Poway

Pastor Ed Turley

March 27, 2022

Big Idea: We can know the joy of life if we walk together in His light.

Three Tests To Help Us Have Discernment:

1. The Bible Test: We Must Know The Bible Well Enough To Spot A Counterfeit

“**Beloved**, do not believe every spirit, but **test** the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many **false prophets** have gone out into the world.” **1 John 4:1 (NASB)**

Jesus preparing his disciples said, "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. "Because **lawlessness is increased**, most people's love will grow cold. "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. **Matthew 24:11-13 (NASB)**

“You, however, **continue** in the things you have **learned** and become **convinced** of, knowing **from whom** you have learned *them*, and that from **childhood** you have known the **sacred writings** which are able to give you the **wisdom** that leads to **salvation** through **faith** which is in **Christ Jesus**. All Scripture is **inspired** by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**.”

2 Timothy 3:14-16 (NASB)

“The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they **received the word** with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily** to see whether these things were so.”

Acts 17:10-11 (NASB)

2. Jesus Test: We Must Personally Know The Real Jesus

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that **confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God**; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.” **1 John 4:2-3 (NASB)**

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: **The virgin will be with child** and will give birth to a son, and will call Him **Immanuel**.” **Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)**

“Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and **only by dying could he break the power of the devil**, who had the power of death.”

Hebrews 2:14 (NLT2)

“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NIV)

According to the Bible, Jesus:

- Is the Incarnate God-man -Isaiah 7:14; 9:6
 - o Sent by God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit – Matthew 1:18
 - o Born of A Virgin Isaiah 7:14
- Lived a Sinless Life – Hebrews 4:15
- Atoned for our sins through His death on the cross. Hebrews 2:17
- Resurrected Gloriously from the grave 1 Corinthians 15:4
- Is only Savior and the way to God the father – John 14:6
- The second person of the trinity John 10:30
- Is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings who is returning soon Revelations 19:16

3. The Holy Spirit Test: We Need To Listen To The Holy Spirit

“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; **because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.** They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God **listens** to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the **spirit of truth** and the **spirit of error.**” **1 John 4:4-6 (NASB)**

“When the **Counselor** comes, whom I will send to you from **the Father, the Spirit** of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about **me.**” **John 15:26 (NIV)**

“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.” **John 16:8 (NIV)**

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”
John 16:13-14 (NIV)

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” **1 John 1:7 (NIV)**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9 (NIV)**

➤ **How well am I able to distinguish the truth from a lie?**

Notes: _____

To have better discernment, I will:

- [] Review the sermon Talk It Over notes with a friend
- [] Join a small group
- [] Invite someone to Easter

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss]

Big Idea: We can know the joy of life if we walk together in His light.

Open in Prayer

Icebreaker: Have you ever been suckered in by a scam? When did you find out that it was false?

Read 1 John 4:1-6

Three Tests to Help Us Have Discernment:

1. The Bible Test: We Must Know The Bible Well Enough To Spot A Counterfeit

Read 1 John 4:1

How do we test to see if someone is a good teacher or a false teacher?

Read Matthew 24:11-13

How did Jesus describe false prophets?

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-16

At what age did you start going to church?

What are some of the doctrinal beliefs you have learned over time?

How much of the Bible do you believe to be true?

Read Acts 17:10-11

What do you learn about the people in Berea?

What are some of your habits of reading and studying the Bible?

2. Jesus Test: We Must Personally Know The Real Jesus

Read 1 John 4:2-3

Read Isaiah 7:14

Read Hebrews 2:14

Why is it important to believe in the incarnation of Jesus?

How is the incarnation of Jesus different than any other religion?

Read what the Bible teaches us about Jesus.

According to the Bible, Jesus:

- Is the Incarnate God-man – **Isaiah 7:14; 9:6**
 - o Sent by God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit – **Matthew 1:18**
 - o Born of A Virgin – **Isaiah 7:14**
- Lived a Sinless Life – **Hebrews 4:15**
- Atoned for our sins through His death on the cross. – **Hebrews 2:17**
- Resurrected Gloriously from the grave – **1 Corinthians 15:4**
- Is only Savior and the way to God the Father – **John 14:6**
- The second person of the trinity – **John 10:30**
- Is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings who is returning soon – **Revelation 19:16**

How is Jesus different than any other religion?

3. The Holy Spirit Test: We Need To Listen To The Holy Spirit

Read 1 John 4:4-6

Why should we not give into fear?

How is the spirit of truth and the spirit of error described?

Read John 15:26

Read John 16:7,8,13-14

What do you learn about the Holy Spirit?

What is His purpose?

Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit speaking to your heart?

How?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.
