

“Blessed Assurance: Test the Spirits”

I John 4:1-6

Pastor Jim Oakley – January 6, 2019

We must know the essential truths of scripture, so we can tell truth from falsehood.

1) WHY TESTING SPIRITS (v. 1)

2) THE FIRST TEST (v. 2-4)

3) THE SECOND TEST (v. 5-6)

4) DISCERNING SPIRITS TODAY

*“In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty,
In All Things Charity.”
— Rupertus Meldenius*

READ AHEAD FOR NEXT WEEK: I John 4:7-21

Discussion Questions

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever mistaken the lyrics of a song and been corrected? If so, what song did you get wrong and how?

- 1) What are some false teachings you’ve heard of in your lifetime?
- 2) What is the danger of believing the message of every “spirit”?
- 3) What reason does John give in verse 1 to “test the spirits”?
- 4) Who does John indicate should do the testing?
- 5) What are the differences in the messages of those with the Spirit of God and the Spirit of the antichrist?
- 6) How can believing false things about Jesus compromise the gospel?
- 7) How does believing different things about Jesus affect the church?
- 8) According to John, how do you recognize the Spirit of falsehood?
- 9) From the passage, why are people drawn to these false teachers?
- 10) What are some Biblical essential truths of the Faith that we cannot compromise on?
- 11) What are some Biblical non-essential views that shouldn’t cause a rift in our fellowship with other believers?
- 12) How can we maintain love among God’s kids despite disagreement over non-essentials?
- 13) How can we pray for you this week?