

**Real Love
Love Knows
1 John 3:24 – 4:6**

1 John 3:24 Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

2 This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.

3 But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.

4 But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

5 Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them.

6 But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

Big Idea – Real love knows and discerns truth from error.

1. We know we are abiding in God because of His Spirit within us.

1 John 3:24 "Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us."

1 John 4:13 "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:13b "...we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."

Romans 8:9 “But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)”

Romans 8:14 “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.”

Romans 8:16 “For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.”

Every Christ-follower, every believer in Jesus Christ, has the Holy Spirit of God indwelling them. If someone does not, they are not a Christian!

2. Real love is not gullible – it tests or proves false prophets

1 John 4:1 “Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.”

Philippians 1:9 “...I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,”

If you truly love God you will check out what a teacher says with the Word of God.

Discernment is sadly lacking among believers today.

What is discernment? Wisdom, insight, ability to spot a scam, a falsehood, a lie!

True prophets/teachers/spirits believe the in deity and incarnation of Christ

1 John 4:2 “This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.”

In other words, they believe in the incarnation, that Jesus is God.

J.Vernon McGee pointed out an interesting fact about Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given...”

The “child,” Christ’s humanity, was born; the “Son,” Christ’s Deity, was given

False prophets/teachers/spirits deny Christ's deity – they have the spirit of anti-Christ.

1 John 4:3 “But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.”

False cults do not believe that Jesus is God. Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, among others...

3. The Spirit of God, of truth, is greater than the spirit of the world

1 John 4:4 “But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

5 Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them.

6 But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.”

God's Holy Spirit is greater/stronger than the devil.

Ephesians 2:2 “...the prince of the power of the air the spirit who now is working in the sons of disobedience.”

In Chapter 6:10 – 18 of Paul's letter to Ephesus it tells you how to defeat Satan and spirit powers in high places. Do you know how? With the Sword of the Holy Spirit aka the Word of God, and prayer!

Unbelievers are deceived by the falsehoods of the world's systems.

The culture is easily sucked in by the cancel culture/woke crowd's p.c. nonsense!

Believers hear/listen to and obey God's Word, God's truth. They judge or discern everything they hear with the Word of God!