



# WHO TO BELIEVE WHEN IT COMES TO JESUS

1 John 4:1-6

Two thousand years ago, when Christianity had just begun, there were a lot of falsehoods being spread about Jesus. The idea was to discredit Christ so that people would not believe Him to be God and would not pattern their lives after His teachings. As you might expect, some of these lies came from other religions. But surprisingly and sadly, many of these untruths came from within Christianity itself. How did that happen? False teachers had been “planted” in the Church by Satan as part of His evil plan to divert people from God’s truth and blessings. Guess what? That same thing is still happening today. False teachers continue to present sensible sounding lies about Jesus, but which are absolutely false and dangerously foolish because they put people’s souls at eternal risk. Does that sound overstated? Not if you realize that these lies are deceptive dogmas designed to lead people astray from the true God; that will mess them up in this life and that will lead them straight to hell in the next! Listen, the most important question that we all need to be able to answer correctly is this: Who can we trust to tell us the truth about Jesus? How can we know if what we’re being told about Christ is *fact* or *fiction*? Thankfully, **1 John 4:1-6** was written to answer that question by showing us how to discern the *spirit of truth* from the *spirit of error*.

1. (v. 1-6) Remember that “behind the scenes” of this life there is a spiritual world manipulating everything happening ...
2. (v. 1) Don’t believe everything you hear that claims to be ...
3. (v. 2) True teachers will teach that Jesus is uniquely ...

4. (v. 3a) False teachers will minimize the full and perfect ...
5. (v. 3b) False teachers will try to turn you against ...
6. (v. 4) You have what it takes to discern ...
7. (v. 5) False teachers shape their teachings to ...
8. (v. 6) True teachers shape their teachings around ...

## TODAY’S TAKEAWAYS

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word of God.
2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Word of God.
3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God.

## FOR THOUGHT & TALK

*In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John’s message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don’t have to cover them all.*

1. Read aloud **1 John 4:1-6** in two different translations. Why is it important for believers to live in this physical world understanding that behind-the-scenes there is a spiritual world? What does God want us to understand about the spiritual world and how it operates in our physical world and lives?
2. What does it mean and why does it matter, that too many Christians in our culture today are “**uncritically accepting**” of spiritual teachings about God? What are some examples of false teachings about Jesus that many people have come to believe?
3. False teachers will try to turn us against Jesus or get us to value something (or someone) more than Jesus. The Apostle John refers to this as the *spirit of antichrist*. What are some ways you see this operating in your own life or in the life of someone you love? What are some of our best protections against the spirit of antichrist?
4. What is your practice for *going* to the Word of God? How are you being *guided* by the Word of God? In what ways are you *giving* the Word of God? What is the benefit of God’s Word to you personally?