

## Dual Connection (1 John) Pt 2 *It Matters What You Do*

### Message to Conversation Guide

1. The false teaching that had impacted the spiritual community that John wrote to in 1 John was denial that Jesus had come in the flesh. How does the verse below succinctly summarize this heresy?

#### **1 John 4:1-3**

*1 Dear friends, 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. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: **Every Spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every Spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the Spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. NIV***

2. The false teachers impacting the spiritual community John wrote to were being told that what the first apostles said about Jesus and the gospel was incorrect. How do the verses below confirm this and implore them to hold onto the original message of the apostles?

#### **1 John 2:24-27**

*24 As for you, **see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life.***

*26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, **and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. NIV***

3. Please review the summary below of why the book of 1 John was written.

*“The letter known as 1 John was sent to a group of believers who were in the midst of an unsettling situation. Some of them had abandoned faith in Jesus the Messiah as it had first been taught to them. They found the proclamation that God had come in a human body impossible to reconcile with the common Greek idea that the flesh is evil and only Spirit is good. But despite their denial of the Messiah, their immoral lives and their lack of practical love, they claimed to know God and belong to God. They asserted that their spiritual insight put them above the rest of the group, which they demonstrated by deserting the fellowship. Those left behind were deeply shaken, uncertain about everything they had been taught.”*  
*YouVersion Introduction to 1 John*

4. One primary false idea John was combating in his letter was the idea that Jesus appeared to be flesh and blood but only appeared to be flesh and blood (Docetism). With this in mind, read and discuss the views of Cerinthus in the quote below.

*“One special variety of Docetism is associated with the name Cerinthus, who flourished in the nineties of the first century, and who traditionally represented as the beta noire of John the disciple of the Lord. Cerinthus, a man trained in Egypt but resented in the province of Asia, accepted a world-view (including the creation of matter by an inferior power), but propounded a novel Christology. He distinguished the man Jesus (the Son of Joseph and Mary, endowed with greater virtue and wisdom than other men), from the Christ’, who descended on Jesus in the form of a dove after He was baptized, empowering Him to perform miracles and proclaim ‘the unknown Father’, but who left him before he died, so that ‘Jesus suffered and rose again, while the Christ remained immune from suffering, since He was a spiritual being’. F.F. Bruce*

5. How is the teaching of the false teachers refuted regarding Jesus and the Christ being separate and the Christ spirit coming on Jesus at Baptism and departing before the crucifixion in the verse below?

**1 John 5:6**

**6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ.** He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. NIV

6. The claim that flesh and material are evil, which negates their importance, led to the idea that what you do in your body doesn’t matter. How do the verses below refute that claim?

**1 John 1:8-10**

**8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**

7. Who gets to define sin? What does the word confession mean in **1 John 1:9**?
8. According to the verses below, what are the primary motivations behind all sin?

**1 John 2:15-17**

**15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.** NIV