

Crossroads of Life
Part 2: "Look around"
Key Text: 1 John 4:1-6
Pastor Brian Uyeda
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Question we'll answer today:

In a world full of counterfeits, how do I spot the real thing?

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. – 1 John 4:1 ESV

1. Religion Test: Is this about receiving God's _____ of salvation, or proving myself to God?

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

Live it out!

Question: Where can I stop trying to prove myself to God, and instead rest in his grace?

² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, – 1 John 4:2 ESV

2. Church Test: Is this ministry sharing the true gospel of salvation by grace through _____ in Christ alone, or another version that changes the story?

¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. – Acts 4:12 ESV

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. – John 14:6 ESV

Live it out!

Question: Are you following, liking or listening to anything that might not be representing the true gospel of Jesus?

³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. – 1 John 4:3 ESV

3. Message Test: Is this honoring God and _____ above all, or focusing on our comfort and happiness?

³ For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths. – 2 Timothy 4:3-4 NLT

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. – Colossians 2:8 ESV

Live it out!

Question: Are the sermons, podcasts, shows or posts you consume fast food or God food for your mind? Where in my life am I *reflecting* God's truth, and where am I *rejecting* it?

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for **he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.** ⁵ They are **from the world**; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are **from God**. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever 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 ESV

4. Fruit Test: Is what I'm taking in or putting out reflecting the _____ fruit, or feeding the flesh's selfish desires?

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! – Galatians 5:19-23 NLT

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. – Romans 8:5-6 ESV

²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. – Ephesians 4:21-24 NLT

Live it out!

Question: Where in my life right now am I listening to the world, instead of the Word (Jesus)?