

First John
Spring 2026
Dr. Matthew Johnson
Week 5

Paragraph titles:

What did you name them?

1 John 4:1–6 - Test

1 John 4:7–12 - Love

1 John 4:13–21 - Perfect

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20 RSV)

4:1-6:

How do we test in order to discern?

“By this acknowledgment is meant not merely a recognition of his identity, but a profession of faith in him ‘openly and boldly’ (Westcott) as the incarnate Lord. Even evil or unclean spirits recognized the deity of Jesus during his ministry, but though they knew him, they did not acknowledge him. The Spirit of God, on the other hand, always honors the Son of God.” Stott 154-155.

“Comparing the two passages, 2:18-23 and 4:1-3, it is instructive to observe the emphasis. In chapter 2 our confession or denial of the Son determines whether we possess the Father or not, while in chapter 4, our confession or denial of the Son indicates whether we are inspired by the Spirit or not. The person of Christ is central. No system can be tolerated, however loud its claims or learned its adherents, which denies that Jesus is the Christ, come in the flesh. In other words, either his eternal deity or his historical humanity. Those who deny the Son have neither the Father nor the Spirit.” Stott 155

4:7-12

What is love and how does God define love in his person and character?

4:8-21

What kind of confession is John talking about? What is Jesus looking for in our confession?

How do we demonstrate the love of God?

Homework:

- Read 1 John 5.
- Name each paragraph.
- As you read, make notes of what stand out to you.
- Be ready to discuss Chapter 5 next week

Notes: