

LOVED TO LOVE
SERMON SERIES IN 1 JOHN

SERMON LISTENING GUIDE // DATE: _____

1 John 4:1-6 // 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. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-christ, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 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.

A Relevant Gospel

1 John 4:1-6

Why is the gospel relevant in the 21st century?

I. The need for truth

A. The nature and source of error (v. 1; Matt. 7:15; 2 Pet. 2:1; 2 Cor 11:13-15)

B. Examples of error in our culture

II. Discerning truth

A. Truth is a master narrative (v. 2-3)

B. The controlling narrative of Christ (v. 5-6)

III. Overcoming error

A. The truth of Christ's overcoming (v. 4; John 16:33)

B. The nature of your overcoming (v. 4)

APPLICATION GUIDE

1. What kind of error and deception do you see in our world today? How do you see "live your truth" being expressed?
2. What is the controlling narrative in your life? What circumstance is making it difficult for you to embrace Christ's victory over error and evil?
3. How does your engagement of your opponents need to change? How does it need to reflect the way Christ engaged his opponents and overcame evil?