

F O C U S

Focus on Truth

1 John 4:1 (Msg.) “My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.”

2 John 1:7 (ESV) “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

How to Spot a Lying Preacher:

1st Lie: There is no absolute truth.

Truth matters!

3 John 1:4 (NIV) “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

Recommended: www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/teens/absolute-truth

Other Scripture: *John 8:32; John 16:13; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 3:4.*

2nd Lie: Everyone is going to Heaven.

1 John 5:11-12 (NIV) “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

Recommended Reading: *Erasing Hell*, by Francis Chan.

Other Scripture: *Here's 100 verses for Jesus being the only way at www.openbible.info/topics/jesus_being_the_only_way*

3rd Lie: God wants you to be rich.

3 John 1:2 (KJV) “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

1 Timothy 6:5_b (NIV) “. . . [they] think that godliness is a means to financial gain.”

1 John 2:15-17 (NIV) “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”

Recommended Reading: *Anything by Kate Bowler on the subject.*

Other Scriptures: *1 Peter 4:19; 1 Timothy 6:5-6; James 4:3.*

4th Lie: Jesus never defined marriage.

2 John 1:9 (NIV) “Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”

Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV) “‘Haven't you read,’ he replied, ‘that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Recommended Reading: *What the Bible Really Teaches about Homosexuality*, by Kevin DeYoung.

Other Scriptures: *Genesis 19; Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:8-10.*

What to do if you disagree with me today:

1st – Please understand my heart.

1 John 2:26 (NIV) “I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.”

Matthew 7:15 (NIV) “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”

2nd – Understand the power of self-deception.

2 Timothy 4:3 (NIV) “For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”

3rd - Test everything you hear with the Bible.

1 John 4:1 (NIV) “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.”

John 17:17 (NIV) “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

**Want to get even more out of reading the Bible?
*New Class starting September 30th
Sundays at 10:45AM in room B-2***