

## The Proof that One Really Loves God – 6 Tests (part 2)

### 1<sup>st</sup> John – Chapter 4.1-21

Last week we began studying the proof that one really loves God. We went through the first 4 tests that the apostle John gave the early church for knowing if one really loves God from Chapter 3. They are:

1. Are we experiencing God's incredible love in our lives.
2. Are we turning away from sin and its enslavement
3. Is our life marked by righteousness and love
4. Do we consistently have a clean heart

This week we will be continuing to find out what John has to say about the one who really loves God as we look at tests. As we look at Testing the Spirits of False Teachers and Loving One Another.

#### Test 5 – Testing the Spirits of False Teachers

**1 John 4:1-6** <sup>1</sup> Beloved, 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. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. <sup>4</sup> You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore, they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Pastor David Guzik says: John warned against believing **every spirit**; that is, we are never to assume every spiritual experience, or every demonstration of spiritual power is from God. We must test spiritual experiences and spiritual phenomenon to see if they are in fact from God. Many, when first encountering the *reality* of the spiritual world, are too impressed and amazed to ask **whether they are of God**. This leads to easy deception.

- ❖ 1. **Test the spirits** of teachers <sup>1</sup> Beloved, 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.
  - Make sure the teacher/prophet is of God, a true prophet is one who receives direct revelation from God. Those who deny Jesus's divinity or humanity are false prophets and antichrists. We must test them the same way the Bereans tested – make sure that what you see, hear, and read totally lines up with Scripture. Do not be deceived by false teachers (prophets).

- **Spirit** g4151 *pneuma* – wind, air in motion, breath, a spiritual being. Here, the meaning is a professedly divine communication, or a professed possessor of a spiritual communication – note little ‘spirit’ as opposed to God’s Spirit.
  - **Deuteronomy 13:1-3** <sup>1</sup> “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup> and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ <sup>3</sup> you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
  - **Deuteronomy 18:22** <sup>22</sup> When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.
  - **Jeremiah 29:8-9** <sup>8</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. <sup>9</sup> For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them,’ declares the LORD.
  - **Matthew 7:15-16** <sup>15</sup> “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?
  - **Proverbs 14:15** <sup>15</sup> The naive believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps.
  - **Acts 17:11** <sup>11</sup> Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.
- The reason: Because there are many false teachers who claim to have direct revelation from God but are promoting false ideas
- **Jeremiah 14:14** <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to me, “The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.
  - **Matthew 24:4-5** <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.
  - **Matthew 7:22-23** <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

- **2 Peter 2:1** <sup>1</sup> *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.*
- **Mark 13:21-23** <sup>21</sup> *And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; <sup>22</sup> for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. <sup>23</sup> But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.*
- **Acts 20:29-30** <sup>29</sup> *I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*
- **1 Timothy 4:1** <sup>1</sup> *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,*

❖ 2.3. **Test the confession of teachers** <sup>2</sup> *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*

- The true spirit acknowledges that Jesus Christ has actually come in the flesh. In John’s time there was a group called Docetists who taught that Christ didn’t have an actual body, that He did not come to earth in the flesh, or those who claimed that Jesus and ‘the Christ’ were 2 separate beings – one physical and one spiritual.
  - **1 John 5:1** <sup>1</sup> *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.*
  - **John 16:13** <sup>13</sup> *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*
  - **1 John 2:23** <sup>23</sup> *Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.*
- The teacher with a false spirit does not acknowledge Jesus as the son of God
  - **2 Thessalonians 2:3** <sup>3</sup> *Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction*
  - **2 John 1:7** <sup>7</sup> *For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.*
- The false spirit, the spirit of lawlessness is already in the world. We should note that the devil doesn’t care if you know ‘Jesus’ or love Him or pray to Him – as long as it is a false Jesus, a made-up Jesus, a Jesus who cannot save you.

- **1 John 2:18** <sup>18</sup> *Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.*
  - **2 Thessalonians 2:7-8** <sup>7</sup> *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming*
- ❖ **4. Test yourselves** <sup>4</sup> *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*
- John says you are from God – are you overcoming the spirit of the world? We have many spiritual enemies, but not one of them is greater than Jesus who lives in us.
    - **Colossians 1:27** <sup>27</sup> *to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
    - **Ephesians 6:10-11** <sup>10</sup> *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*
    - **1 Corinthians 2:12** <sup>12</sup> *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God*
  - Have you overcome false teachers?
    - **Romans 8:37** <sup>37</sup> *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*
    - **Ephesians 6:12-13** <sup>12</sup> *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm*
    - **Revelation 12:11** <sup>11</sup> *And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.*
- ❖ **5,6. Test the followers of false teachers** <sup>5</sup> *They are from the world; therefore, they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*
- False teachers are heard by and followed by the people of the world
    - **1 Timothy 4:1** <sup>1</sup> *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons*

- **Luke 16:8** <sup>8</sup> *And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.*
  - **John 3:31** <sup>31</sup> *“He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.*
  - **John 15:19** <sup>19</sup> *If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*
  - **1 Corinthians 2:14** <sup>14</sup> *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*
  - **2 Timothy 4:3-4** <sup>3</sup> *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*
- True teachers are followed by people who know God
- **1 Corinthians 2:12** <sup>12</sup> *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God*
  - **1 Corinthians 2:15-16** <sup>15</sup> *But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. <sup>16</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.*
  - **John 8:47** <sup>47</sup> *He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.*
- We know the difference between truth and error – because the Holy Spirit guides us and we keep the spirit of truth by clinging to Jesus
- **John 14:16-17** <sup>16</sup> *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*
  - **John 15:26-27** <sup>26</sup> *“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, <sup>27</sup> and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*
  - **1 John 2:27** <sup>27</sup> *As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*

## Test 6 – Loving one another

**1 John 4:7-21** <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup> We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> We love, because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

The last test of this 6 part lesson is Loving One Another. John appeals to his audience and therefore to us to **love one another** as a means of motivating us into righteous living, right belief, and right relationships with other believers. We see that amid the forces of worldly temptations, community defections, and false teachings – John appeals to us to follow the loving commandment of the Lord God Himself.

- ❖ 7,8. Loving one another proves that **we are born of God and know God** <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
  - We are not commanded to love one another in order to earn God's love or to become worthy of His love. We love each other because we are loved by God, born of God, and we know God – we have received His love and we now live in the light of it.
    - **Galatians 5:22-23** <sup>2</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
    - **1 Thessalonians 4:9** <sup>9</sup> Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another
    - **1 Peter 1:22** <sup>22</sup> Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart
    - **John 17:3** <sup>3</sup> This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- ❖ 9-11. Loving one another proves that **we see God's love** <sup>9</sup> *By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*
- God's love is seen in His supreme act – He sent His Son. This love was manifested, it was made visible and clear, it was revealed to us and in us by the Holy Spirit. We see God's love!
    - **Manifested** - g5319 phaneroō to make visible, make clear
    - **John 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup> *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*
    - **Romans 5:8** <sup>8</sup> *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
    - **Romans 8:32** <sup>32</sup> *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*
  - God's love is the way He has chosen to save us
    - **John 15:16** <sup>16</sup> *You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.*
    - **Ephesians 2:4-5** <sup>4</sup> *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*
  - God made His love known to us and in us, because He loved us He chose to save us from eternity apart from Him – therefore, we should love one another as He commands us.
    - At the end of the story of the Good Samaritan Jesus asked who was the neighbor **Luke 10:37** <sup>37</sup> *And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”*
    - **John 13:34-35** <sup>34</sup> *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
    - **John 15:12** <sup>12</sup> *“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*
    - **Ephesians 4:32** <sup>32</sup> *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*
    - **Ephesians 5:1** <sup>1</sup> *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children*

- ❖ 12,13. Loving one another proves that **God's Spirit is within us** <sup>12</sup> *No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.* <sup>13</sup> *By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*
  - God is not known by sight
    - **Exodus 33:20** <sup>20</sup> *But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"*
    - **John 1:18** <sup>18</sup> *No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*
    - **1 Timothy 1:17** <sup>17</sup> *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen*
    - **John 5:37** <sup>37</sup> *And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.*
  - God can be known by love, a maturing love that brings us closer to Him as we listen to Him, read His Word, obey His commands
    - **1 Corinthians 13:13** <sup>13</sup> *But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*
  - Mature love proves that God's Spirit is within us
    - **Romans 8:9** <sup>9</sup> *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*
- ❖ 14-16. Loving one another proves that **our testimony & confession are true** <sup>14</sup> *We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.* <sup>15</sup> *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.* <sup>16</sup> *We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*
  - The great testimony: God **did** send His Son
    - **John 5:36** <sup>36</sup> *But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.*
    - **John 15:27** <sup>27</sup> *and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*
    - **Acts 18:5** <sup>5</sup> *But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ*
    - **John 3:34** <sup>34</sup> *For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.*



- The great promise: The person who acknowledges Christ lives in God & God in him
  - **Romans 10:9** <sup>9</sup> *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*
  - **Matthew 10:32** <sup>32</sup> *“Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.*
  - **Philippians 2:9-11** <sup>9</sup> *For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
  
- The great confession: We know & believe the love of God
  - **John 6:68-69** <sup>68</sup> *Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”*
  - **1 Corinthians 2:9** <sup>9</sup> *but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”*
  
- ❖ 17. We have proof that **God is going to deliver us from judgment** <sup>17</sup> *By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.*
  - We see the perfecting of love both now and in eternity. The word shows us that there will come a judgment and because we are of the Lord, we can be confident that we will be with Him.
    - **Perfected** – g5048 teleioō - to bring to an end, to complete, accomplished. John is speaking of the love that is ‘perfectly perfected’ or completely complete.
    - **Confidence** – g3954 parrēsia – freedom in speaking, boldness in speech, assurance, openness, frankness
    - **John 17:22** <sup>22</sup> *The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one*
  
  - *As Jesus is* – he is glorified, justified, forever righteous and bold, sitting at the right hand of the father – so also are we having that same standing while we are in the world.

- ❖ 18. And that **God will deliver us from fear** <sup>18</sup> *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love*
- There are many passages in the Old and New Testaments which tell us that we should fear God with appropriate reverence:
    - **Ecclesiastes 12:13** <sup>13</sup> *The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.*
    - **1 Peter 2:17** <sup>17</sup> *Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.*
  - The fear that John is referencing is that fear which involves torment, agonizing fear that robs one of their joy and confidence. *Perfect love* – that of Jesus, casts out fear.
    - **Psalms 34:4** <sup>4</sup> *I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.*
    - **Psalms 56:3-4** <sup>3</sup> *When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. <sup>4</sup> In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?*
    - **Psalms 145:20** <sup>20</sup> *The LORD keeps all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.*
    - **Isaiah 12:2** <sup>2</sup> *“Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.”*
    - **Romans 8:15** <sup>15</sup> *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”*
    - **2 Timothy 1:7** <sup>7</sup> *For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*
- ❖ 19-21. **Loving one another proves that we love God** <sup>19</sup> *We love, because He first loved us.* <sup>20</sup> *If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.* <sup>21</sup> *And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*
- The basis – *He loved us first*
    - **John 3:16** <sup>16</sup> *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*
    - **John 14:6** <sup>6</sup> *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me”*
    - **John 15:16** <sup>16</sup> *You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you*
  - The illustration – A false profession of one who says they love God and perhaps even thinks they do; but they also hate their brother or someone else. And while that may make some

kind of sense to them, God says they are lying about loving Him – God says that if they cannot love their brother, they cannot love Him.

- **Titus 1:16** <sup>16</sup> *They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.*
- The commandment: God commands *that the one who loves God should love his brother also*
  - **Leviticus 19:18** <sup>18</sup> *You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD*
  - **John 15:17** <sup>17</sup> *This I command you, that you love one another.*
  - **2 Corinthians 5:15** <sup>15</sup> *and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*
  - **Romans 12:10** <sup>10</sup> *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor*

We have gone through John's 6 proofs that one really loves God. John has shown us that we have tests that we can use to see how we are doing. Therefore, are we

1. Experiencing God's incredible love
2. Turning away from sin and it's enslavement
3. Being marked by righteousness and love
4. Having a clean heart
5. Testing the spirits of false teachers
6. Loving one another

If we can answer from our heart "Yes Lord", I am doing what John has shown me... Then tomorrow ask yourself again and go forth and do what He is showing you to do for Him and His beloved believers.