

WE TEST- 1 JOHN 4:1-6

Intro: Reading of 1 John 4:1-6 Dear friends – Agapetoi – beloved. He loves those he is writing and that motivates his warning.

I. The Command for testing

- a. Don't believe
- b. Test- prove 'dokimazete'
- c. You – all believers are responsible

II. The Context for testing

- a. Many false prophets
- b. When God supplies truth satan supplies counterfeit
- c. Spirit activity does not equal God activity. It must be measured by the word of God. "If a prophet or one who foretells by dreams appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them," you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer (Deut 13:1–5)." NAC
- d. 2 Peter 2:1 secretly introduce heresy and deny the sovereign Lord

III. The Contrast in testing

- a. The confession that Jesus is God in the flesh. 'homologeí' or confession means an unwavering confession and denotes not mere verbal acknowledgment but an open and forthright declaration of the message as one's own position – NAC
- b. The antichrist will not make this confession and their character will show it. They will appear spiritual, in sheeps clothing and thus the need for testing.

IV. The Confidence we have.

- a. We are from God - they are from the world
- b. We have overcome them – the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
- c. God followers listen to us but their followers listen to the world because their origin is from the world.

- d. The one in you sustains you by grace, strengthens you by truth, and protects you by love. Remember, you have the bible in your hand and the Spirit in your heart. You have nothing to fear.

Conclusion: We must be led by the truth, led by the Spirit, and led by God's heart not ours. Be committed to the bible more than the charisma of men. Be confident in the gospel more than feelings and be consistent in growing by grace and love.