

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025 AM
AUTHENTIC FAITH: Truth or Consequences 3
Mike Teel, Pastor

FOCAL PASSAGE:

I John 2:20-25

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

I John 4:1-6

¹ 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. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

WHAT WE BELIEVE REALLY DOES _____

- 1) Remember the hypothesis we started with in this section of study. “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere.” We pretty much debunk this hypothesis when we attempted to apply it all of life. So it does matter what we believe. There are many differences expressed as a result of affiliation with a particular church today. Some of those issues are divisive. But all true Christians have some things Scripturally in common, regardless of church affiliation:
- 2) They believe that the Bible is the infallible inerrant Word of God. Written over a period of 1500 years by almost 100 different authors and yet without contradiction. We couldn’t witness a shooting or an accident and tell the same story.
- 3) They believe Jesus is the Son of God who came in the flesh to redeem mankind.
- 4) They confess that men are sinners and that the only way one can be saved is through faith in Christ. Most religions and particularly false ones rely on works. We must justify ourselves to be acceptable to God. False religions are always about us sacrificing for the god but Christianity is about our God who sacrificed for us.
- 5) They believe that Christ died as man’s substitute on the cross, and that He arose again from the dead. As you know this is the only God who has experienced the death, burial and resurrection. If you go to the graves of any leader of a movement or god you will discover their remains are still there.

- 6) The belief that the Holy Spirit indwells true believers. We will see that this is critical in discerning False Teachers.
- 7) Finally, they believe that one day in the future Jesus will come again. False teachers were saying, “Jesus had already come . . .” We may differ on other matters but we agree on the basic doctrines of faith. Do you realize if you investigate history of the false cults and antichristian religions in today’s world, you will discover in most cases their founders started out in a local church! Recall what we learned last week: They were “with us” but not “of us,” so they went out “from us” and started their own group. And they are not normally interested in evangelizing non-believers but they want to convert believers from other churches!

_____ IS JESUS CHRIST?

I John 2:20-22

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.

²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.

The key question for any group is “Who Is Jesus Christ?” Some will say Christ is merely an example; others will say He was a good man or a wonderful teacher.” This is still the vital question today. Many people are asking who is Jesus Christ? So how do we truly know who Jesus is today?

1. SPIRIT _____

We are told that those who are truly born of God has the Spirit of God within them that guides them in all truth. Notice John indicated that his reader’s knew the truth about Christ, or else would not have been saved.

I John 2:20, 27

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

Romans 8:9

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

False Christians in John’s day used two special words to describe their experiences: “Knowledge” and “anointing.” They claimed to have special anointing from God which gave them a unique knowledge. They were “illuminated” and living on a much higher level than anybody else. John points out all true Christians know God and have received the Spirit of God! Because they have believed the truth, they recognize a lie when they meet it.

2. THE _____ OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is so much misunderstanding about the Work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. The inhabiting of the Holy Spirit in our lives begins at the moment we trust Jesus as Savior. When we are saved we have everything necessary for the Christian life – we do not get a portion now and then a second blessing or portion later on – Just like when a baby is born everything thing that baby will need is included, it may not be developed but it is included. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today is vital . . .

- NEW BIRTH AND REGENERATION: The Spirit bring about Spiritual transformation, giving new life in Christ. Remember it was God through the Holy Spirit that sought us for a relationship with Jesus. (**Ephesians 2:1-5**)
- INDWELLING AND EMPOWERMENT: He resides within every believer, providing the strength, wisdom, guidance needed to live the Christian life. (**I Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:26**)
- CONVICTION OF SIN AND GUIDANCE INTO TRUTH: The Spirit helps believers understand and apply God's Word, revealing God's thoughts and the whole counsel of God. (**John 16:8,13**)
- INTERCESSION IN PRAYER: He assist in prayer, interceding on behalf of believers according to God's will. (**Romans 8:26-27**)
- PRODUCING CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER: The Spirit works to develop the "fruit of the Spirit" in believers' lives, such as love, joy, peace, and patience. (**Galatians 5:22-23**)
- GIVING SPIRITUAL GIFTS: He bestows Spiritual gifts to believers for the function and building up of the body of Christ, the church. (**I Corinthians 12:4-11**)
- SEALING AND GUARANTEEING: The Spirit indwells believers as a pledge, or guarantee, of their eternal inheritance and status as God's Children. (**Ephesians 4:30**)
- EMPOWERING WITNESS: He empowers believers to live for Christ and to share their faith with others. (**Acts 1:8**)

3. THE GREAT _____

The great assertions of the faith that sets a Christian apart from others is this: Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh.

I John 4:2

² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

Not all preachers and teachers who claim to be Christian are really Christians in their beliefs.

I John 4:1-6

¹ 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. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and

even now is already in the world. ⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

If they confess that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh, then the most likely belong to the true faith. **Matthew 1:23** is a quote from **Isaiah 7:14**.

Matthew 1:23

²³ The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means “God with us”).

There are a good number of false religions or cults at work in our society today: To find a list you can google Cults in America or False Religions in America today. It will go into great detail. There was a cult that was very active in Lawton in the past few years. Their approach was to engage you in a discussion about “if you have heard of the Mother God”. Known as World Mission Society Church of God. It was established by a in 1964 by Ahn Sanghong in South Korea. The church believes that the founder Ahn Sahng-hong is the Second coming of Jesus, and that Jahng Gi-jah is god incarnate in the form of “god the Mother.” They were very aggressive not too long ago, even approaching some of our folks.

When you are looking for a new church, please take time to sit down with the leadership and find out exactly what they believe. George Whitfield, the great British evangelist, was speaking to a man about his soul. He asked the man, “Sir, what do you believe?” “I believe what my church believes,” the man replied respectfully. “And what does your church believe?” “The same thing I believe.” “And what do both of your believe?” the preacher inquired. “We both believe the same thing!” was the only reply he could get.

A person is not saved by assenting to a church creed. He is saved by trusting Jesus Christ alone for his/her salvation. And then bearing witness to their faith.

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

The one thing we see is if false teachers were content to enjoy themselves in their own meetings, it would be bad enough; the tragedy is that try earnestly to convert others to their antichristian doctrine.

John has given us two warnings to this point about false teachers. The first was “THEY DEPART FROM THE FELLOWSHIP.” The Second is “THEY DENY THE FAITH”

LIVE IT OUT

What do you personally believe about Jesus Christ?

Do you know for certain today if you died you would go to heaven?

What do you need to do today to affirm your relationship with Jesus?