

A Call to Discernment



TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

From the Series,
"Authentic Trust"

1 John 4:1-6
Preached 4/29/15
Meadow Baptist Church

1. A Call For Spiritual Discernment (1)

- a. John's warning - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit..."
- b. John's wisdom - "...but test the spirits, to see whether they are from God..."
- c. John's witness - "...for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

2. A Commitment to Solid Doctrine (2-3)

- a. Dogmatic teaching (2a) - "By this you know the Spirit of God..."
- b. Defining teaching (2b) - "...every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God..."
- c. Disqualifying teaching (3a) - "and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God."
- d. Destructive teaching (3b) - "...this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."

1 Timothy 4:1 - "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons."

3. A Clearly Seen Distinction (4-6)

a. God's people (4)

- i. We are overcomers - "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them..."
- ii. We are owned - "...for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

b. Godless people (5)

- i. Their foundation - "They are from the world..."
- ii. Their focus - "...therefore they speak from the world..."
- iii. Their following - "...and the world listens to them."

c. Guided people (6) - "... By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

- i. Those guided by divine wisdom - "We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us..."
- ii. Those guided by destructive wisdom - "...whoever is not from God does not listen to us."