

# **SPIRITUALLY DISCERNING**

1 John 4:1-6

**BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO  
BE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNING**

1. OUR CALL: BE DISCERNING!

What a False Prophet is NOT:

## What a False Prophet is NOT:

- *Someone who said or did something wrong*

## What a False Prophet is NOT:

- *Someone who said or did something wrong*
  - *Someone who you don't like*

## What a False Prophet is NOT:

- *Someone who said or did something wrong*
  - *Someone who you don't like*
- *Someone you disagree with on secondary matters*



# THEOLOGICAL TRIAGE

REDEEMER 30A  
*Church*

What are issues for which we are willing to:

Die  
Divide  
Debate  
Discuss

Die

**ESSENTIAL**  
FOR THE  
GOSPEL

*Q - Are you Alive*

Divide

**URGENT**  
FOR THE LIFE OF  
THE CHRISTIAN &  
THE CHURCH

*Q - Are you Healthy*

*A Suggested  
Helpful Line  
for Church  
Membership*

Debate

**IMPORTANT**  
TO CHRISTIAN LIFE  
& THEOLOGY

*Q - What's Your Diet?*

Discuss

**OPINION/  
PREFERENCE**

*Q - What's Your Preference?*

## Some Examples:

- Supremacy & Singularity of God
- Deity and Humanity of Christ
- The Trinity
- Justification by Grace alone through Faith alone
- Authority of Scripture
- The Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3)

- Ordinances: Baptism & Communion
- Fellowship of Believers
- Great Commandment & Commission
- Repentance & Reconciliation
- Human Identity & Sexuality
- Part of the Body (ie Service/ Leadership/ Discipline/ Cooperative Mission, etc)

- Eschatology
- Gospel Freedom Issues
- Ministry Programs
- Modes of Ordinances
- Continuationism vs Cessationism
- Arminianism vs Calvinism
- Demonology, Angelology, & Divine Counsel
- Structure of Worship Services

- Music Style in Worship
- Musical Instruments used
- Church Building Issues
- Events
- Other Ministry Programs
- Ministry Tools

The goal of this exercise is to build unity, pursue clarity, and to live charitably with one another for the maturation of the body

## CAUTION!

**Liberalism**  
minimizes or  
denies essential  
doctrines

**Sectarianism**  
treats non-  
essentials as  
essentials



# What a False Prophet IS:

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- *Denies God's Existence*

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- *Disputes God's Character*

## What a False Prophet IS:

- *Denies God's Existence*
- *Distorts God's Word*
- *Dilutes God's Authority*
- *Disputes God's Character*
- *Diminishes God's Son*

2. OUR COURSE: TEST EVERYTHING!

*“The Spirit prescribes... that the faithful should not receive any doctrine thoughtlessly.”* John Calvin



# *Test #1: The Jesus Test (v2)*

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*Test #2: The Worldliness Test (v5)*

*Test #1: The Jesus Test (v2)*

*Test #2: The Worldliness Test (v5)*

*Test #3: The Word Test (v6)*

**3. OUR CONFIDENCE : YOU BELONG TO GOD!**



*Rules of Engagement: How to Discern with Grace*

*Rule 1: Avoid Extremes*  
*(Superstition; Hyper-Suspicion)*

*Rule 2: Believe the Best*

*Rule 3: Know the Bible*



*Rule 4: Do your Homework*

*Rule 5: Examine Your Motives*

*Rule 6: Proceed Lovingly*  
*(Matthew 18; Galatians 6:1)*

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