

Questions

1. Spend some time searching 1st John for phrases that include the words "we know" or "you know." What are some of those statements of assurance that are given to believers?
2. 1 John 4:1 says, "do not believe every spirit." It's a present tense verb command, meaning that it is speaking of an ongoing state. You could say, "Continue to not believe every spirit." That's a warning about the pervasive and persistent nature of false teaching. Are there teachings you've heard that may identify as "Christian," but that seem to be false or in error?
3. Based on verses like 1 John 4:2-3 and 2 Corinthians 11:4, what is one thing necessary for a teacher to be truly aligned with God's truth?
4. 1 John 4:2 speaks of confessing that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh." What is the significance of that confession?
5. Making rash or hypocritical judgments can be sinful, but how should that sinful behavior differ from the command to "test the spirits"?
6. Read John 16:33. What are some practical ways that verse helps you as you engage with the culture?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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A Sermon Series on 1 John

ASSURANCE

Test the Spirits

1 John 4:1-6

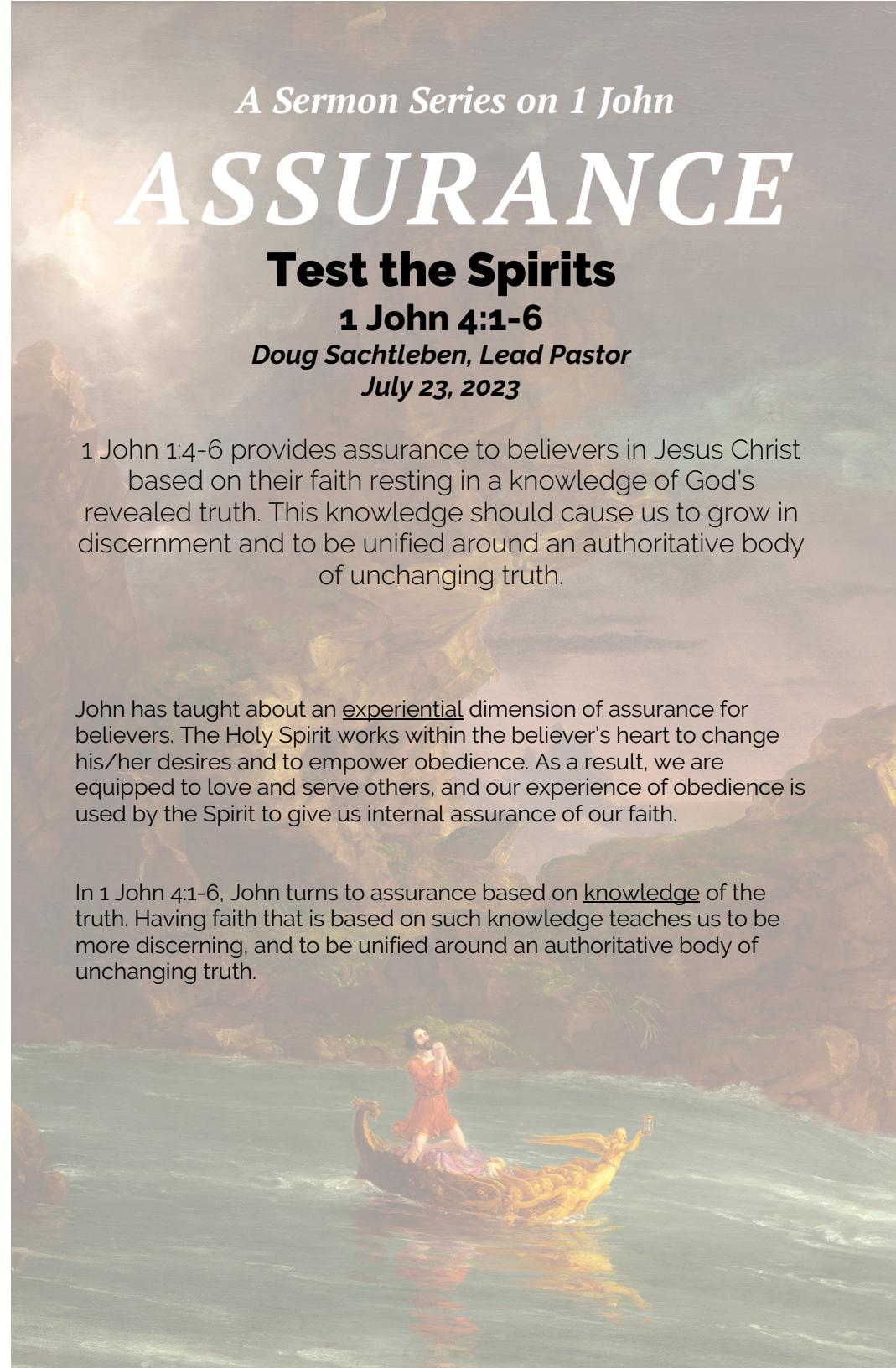
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1 John 1:4-6 provides assurance to believers in Jesus Christ based on their faith resting in a knowledge of God's revealed truth. This knowledge should cause us to grow in discernment and to be unified around an authoritative body of unchanging truth.

John has taught about an experiential dimension of assurance for believers. The Holy Spirit works within the believer's heart to change his/her desires and to empower obedience. As a result, we are equipped to love and serve others, and our experience of obedience is used by the Spirit to give us internal assurance of our faith.

In 1 John 4:1-6, John turns to assurance based on knowledge of the truth. Having faith that is based on such knowledge teaches us to be more discerning, and to be unified around an authoritative body of unchanging truth.



In order to have assurance of their faith based on knowledge of the truth, believers must grow in discerning lies and error (3:1-3).

In order to have assurance of their faith based on knowledge of the truth, believers must be united around the teaching of an authoritative body of unchanging truth (3:4-6).