

*EPC Sermon August 31, 2025*  
*"Our Source 2 "*

John is repetitive.

He warns of false prophets. Remember this is the reason for his letter.

He began this letter by directly refuting the heresy / lies that were being spread.

He reminded his readers of the Gospel message they received.

Jesus paid for our sin. That we have fellowship with Jesus and each other.

The result of this fellowship is that we LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

He reminded us of an old commandment.

***Leviticus 19:18***

18 ... you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

He reminded us that we live in this world, but our hope is in God's Kingdom!

He warned of many antichrists (false prophets).

He reminded us of the Gospel message – abiding in Christ, showing it by loving each other.

This is a Cliff Note's summary of Chapters 1 & 2.

(Engineer's used to get through English or American Literature)

In Chapter 3 – John explained how God's Love conquers sin. This shows in our lives, by the way we LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

He also reminded us of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Now we come to Chapter 4

More false prophets / teaching AND more LOVE ONE ANOTHER and more Gospel!

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Then it hit me John was a preacher! In a preaching class I was taught a formula to use to construct a sermon.

1 Tell them what you are going to say. 2 Tell them 3 Tell them what you said.

(I did not take the same course John took, even if my kids think I am old enough)

John took the following to heart.

***Matthew 22:37-40***

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

38 This is the great and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Why did John keep going back to Gospel message?

(Counterfeit currency example)

Don't try to learn all the "false" examples – Know the "real" so well that the false appears obvious!

In the first part of his letter John concentrated on the effect of the Gospel message on a personal level.

We are convicted - we act a certain way LOVING ONE ANOTHER

We receive the Holy Spirit – we act a certain way LOVING ONE ANOTHER

In today's scripture we learn the source of the power / ability to be able to LOVE ONE ANOTHER

(Review the scripture passage)

**1 John 4**

**Test the Spirits**

- 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.
- 2 **By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,**
- 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.
- 4 **Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**
- 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.
- 6 **We are from God.** Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**God Is Love**

- 7 **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,** and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
- 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- 9 **In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.**
- 10 **In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.
- 11 **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**
- 12 No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us** and his love is perfected in us.
- 13 By this **we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.**
- 14 And we have seen and testify that **the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.**
- 15 **Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.**
- 16 So we have come to know and to believe **the love that God has for us.** God is love, **and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

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17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

19 **We love because he first loved us.**

20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And **this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

We "test" what the current Prophets / Antichrists say against the message we received from Jesus! Guided by the Spirit. With love from God.

(John story – Little Children love one another)

So Like John – Friends, Love One Another