

This Week

Churchwide
Worship Services Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
Bible Fellowships Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
GriefShare Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM in the Library
Small Groups
Women’s Community Group Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM in the Loft
Men
Samson Society Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

College & Career
Late Night Tuesday, 7:00–8:30 PM at the G.Y.M.
Senior High
Faith Mission Friday, 7:00–8:30 PM at Faith Mission
Junior High
Girls’ Lock-In 8:45 PM Friday–11:00 AM Saturday at the G.Y.M.

Many of our regular weekly activities are suspended this week due to Spring Break.

Most of these groups will resume meeting next week.

This Morning

Lesson 10: How to Know We’re Abiding in Christ—*1 John 3:24–4:6*
Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. **The 1st confirmation of abiding:** Obedience to the directives in Scripture confirms that we’re engaged in an abiding experience with Jesus Christ—*1 John 3:24a*.
- II. **The 2nd confirmation of abiding:** The Holy Spirit confirms that we’re engaged in an abiding experience with Jesus Christ when we’re living on the basis of apostolic Christology—*1 John 3:24b–4:6*.
- A. **The source of the confirmation:** The Holy Spirit enables us to analyze the genuineness of our mutual abiding experience with Jesus Christ—*1 John 3:24b*.
- B. **The charge to discern:** The worldwide presence of false prophets forces us to examine the animating force behind every message about spirituality—*1 John 4:1*.
- C. **The criteria to discern:** The animating power behind a religious teacher is discerned on the basis of his affirmation or denial of apostolic Christology—*1 John 4:2–3*.
1. **What the Holy Spirit affirms:** The Holy Spirit will always generate a confession of Jesus Christ being both God and man in one person forever—*1 John 4:2*.

To confess “that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh” is to openly acknowledge that God the Son came from heaven to the earth as the Messiah, added a sinless human nature, which He’ll retain forever, and was given the human name Jesus.
2. **What the spirit of the Antichrist affirms:** The animating force of the future Antichrist will not acknowledge the hypostatic union of Jesus Christ—*1 John 4:3*.
- D. **The ability to discern:** The Holy Spirit’s work in our lives enables us to see through the deception of the false teachers—*1 John 4:4*.
- E. **The need to discern:** The source of the false teachers’ doctrine is the kosmos which gives a ready ear to their false message—*1 John 4:5*.
- F. **The crux in discernment:** Those who know God recognize the veracity of apostolic Christianity and reject anything contrary to it—*1 John 4:6*.

Discussion

These questions are offered each week to facilitate further discussion of this morning’s topic in small group settings such as Community Groups or over dinner with family and friends. We hope you find them helpful to your spiritual growth.

1. What analogy did the Savior use to explain the relationship between the Father, the Son, and us in John 15:1–8? According to this analogy, what does “abiding in Christ” involve? What is the fruit? What stages does a vine branch go through in order to become extremely fruitful?
2. What is the first indication that we’re abiding in Christ according to 1 John 3:24a? What does that involve? In what way do you think Jesus Christ abides or “makes His home” in us?
3. Who else reassures us that we are abiding in His Son, and He is abiding in us according to the last half of verse 24? The explanation of how He assures us is found in 1 John 4:1–6.
4. Why does every teacher of spirituality need to be critically evaluated according to verse 1? How prevalent a problem do you think that false teachers and prophets were in the first century according to Acts 20:28–30 and 2 Peter 2:1–3? Do you think those concerns are still valid today? What specific part of apostolic teaching do we need to examine in order to determine the source of the “spirit” animating a teacher or prophet?
5. Why is each specific part of the phrase “Jesus Christ has come in the flesh” absolutely essential?
6. Who alone can enable us to see through the deceit and allure of the false “spirits” who animate false prophets and teachers according to verse 4?
7. What two contrasting sources of beliefs are explained in verses 5–6? What is the net result of the differing belief systems derived from the two sources? What is the crux in determining “the spirit of truth and the spirit of error”?