

1. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 3:03:10 PM

[24] Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Test

1 John 4:1-6, pg 1023

First car was a VW Baja. Back in the day we didn't have computers in our cars. When something wasn't right, we started simple and worked our way through.

1 John is a diagnostic of the soul... The Christian life.

Test: learn the genuineness of something by examination

Read Text, Pray

Vs. 1

The main idea last week was, "Believe that. Love this". Believe God, who knows all, over your heart's condemnation. Love the church, the people of God. The next verse is an imperative; "*Do not believe*", which seems intentional.- Believe this. Do Not believe this. This section is clearly set up by 3:24, which is a contrast between the "spirit" of the antichrist (vs. 3) and the true Spirit who God has given us. **(READ vs. 24-Vs. 1)**

The imperative is either 2 commands or part 1 and 2 of the same command. "But" is a contrast word that could mean *and*.¹ When considering 3:24 with 4:1 you could say; [24] *God abides in us. How do we know? By this, the one true Spirit lives in us. [4:1] BUT, you who are loved by God, not every 'spirit' is of God; don't believe them and test everything. There are false preachers and teachers who might seem ok, but they are still of the world so their teaching comes from a dark place. (RPG Version)*

Read Vs. 2

¹ a marker of a series of coordinate relations which are contrastive with a previously identified event or state—'and.'
Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#)

2. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 5:44:23 PM

The word ὁμολογεῖ means “to say the same thing, confess, or agree.” It is not a mere statement of facts. Stott comments: “Even evil and unclean spirits recognized the deity of Jesus during his earthly ministry (e.g. Mk. 1:24; 3:11; 5:7–8; cf. Acts 19:15). But though they knew him, they did not acknowledge him” (Letters of John, 157). Plummer asserts that “we are not to suppose that all other articles of faith are unimportant ... but against the errors prevalent in that age this was the great safeguard” (Epistles of S. John, 95). Marshall says that “it is possible that John’s opponents thought they could confess Jesus as Lord but without accepting the fact that he was the Word incarnate, and therefore John had to stress that the confession must be made in this particular form” (Epistles of John, 206). Calvin adds, “But let us remember what this confession contains. When the apostle says that Christ came, we infer that he was before with the Father. By this His eternal divinity is shown” (The Gospel according to St. John, Part 2 (11–21) and The First Epistle of

Another “by this” statement. This is a clear and direct affront to the false teaching of the day.

This is known as Docetism, which is a form of Gnosticism.

“The problem with Docetism is that it denies the core truths of the gospel, namely, the death and resurrection of Christ. If Jesus did not have a real body, then He did not really die (Docetism teaches that His suffering on the cross was mere illusion). And, if Jesus had no physical body, He could not have risen bodily from the dead. Without the actual death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have no salvation, we are still in our sins, and our faith is futile.”
Gotquestions.org

It’s picked up again in 2 John 2:7.

[For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. 2 John 7](#)

What’s interesting is there this is not a universal statement. In other words, there are people who believe he came in the flesh but are also *of the Antichrist*; Mormons, JW’s, Muslims, etc. You can’t say emphatically that anyone who believes Jesus came in the flesh is *from God*. Plus, the Gospel of John is clear about his divinity. Therefore, he states this specifically, BUT more generally speaking he is saying this;

“he now provides the actual test itself. What do you think about Jesus the Christ? John gives the way in which one can recognize (ginōskete) “the Spirit of God.” The test itself is comprehensive. Every spirit (pan pneuma) will either be approved or rejected based on the Christological test. Not only is the test comprehensive, but it is also confessional. The legitimacy of a prophet should be determined by the content of his message, his confession about Jesus. The
2 verb “acknowledges” (*homologeí*) indicates an unwavering confession and

3. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 5:45:04 PM

Hiebert, "An Examination of 1 John 4:1-6," 426.

4. Bobby Grossi

July 8, 2023 at 7:59:16 PM

and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

3 "denotes not mere verbal acknowledgment but an open and forthright declaration of the message as one's own position." It is the outward expression of inner faith. The content of the expression is crucial, and it must acknowledge that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (en sarki)."²

True faith in the true Christ=true life. This is a good reminder of our series "Narrative"; all cults seem to have a deviation of 2 things; Who Christ is and/or what Christ has done (the Gospel). This is also shown by the more general statement in vs. 3.

We test the genuineness of someone by examining what they believe about Christ!

Read Vs. 3

The term "spirit of the antichrist" seems to refer to "many antichrists (that) have come" that John refers to in 2:18-19 and that there is a spirit motivating them.

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. [19] They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 1 John 2:18-19

This seems to be a PSA. A little FYI for your spiritual life, which means we need to be careful who we are listening to. One of the main points of 1 John is TRUTH, [2:26] I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. Yes, there is a battle which is clearly a spiritual one. But it's the battle of knowing and believing. The attacks on the church from then to now is deception.

Test; Learn the genuineness of something by examination

² New American Commentary. Akin, D. L. (2001). [1, 2, 3 John](#) (Vol. 38, p. 172).

The things of the "spiritual" usually scare us a bit. But the battle is less about a demon under every rock and more about knowing and living in truth. Yes, attacks will come. It makes sense since we serve a different God and are of a different kingdom. But it's not ying and yang, 2 powers of equal power; but a sovereign, all powerful, all knowing, ever present God who is also patient, loving and good who has allowed one of his creation to live in rebellion against him. And one day, he will be punished, but thank God that day didn't already come... for we would never know the grace of God found in Jesus Christ.

Job- Satan has to ask permission. So why does God allow this rebellious spirit to affect his children?

To show his glory!

What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— Romans 9:22-23

To show his providential care.

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:20

To strengthen our faith,

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7

to teach us perseverance and wholeness

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

Just to name a few!!! If only we could see life through this lens. How much easier would our battles be? Paul tells a story in 2 Cor. 12 about visions he had of the heavens.

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

There is a confidence in the spiritual realm. Our disposition to these things is this. (Read vs. 4)

Test; Learn the genuineness of something by examination

Vs. 4

This is our disposition in the divine battle; 1. We know who we are... from God. 2. We are over-comers. 3. Not because we are great but because he who dwells in us is! 4. God is greater... period!

Vs. 5

Popularity is not the test. It's who they are *of*. People in the world will listen to people of the world, bound by the *spirit of the antichrist*. But our response to the people in this world is spelled out for us. We are called to not "love" the world or the things of the world. 2:25-17.

5. Bobby Grossi

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John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (ESV)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

But this is the world systems of thought; materialism, nihilism, worldly hedonism, and not to covet the things of this world for it is not our home!!! But the people, stuck in the puppetry of the *spirit of the antichrist*? Well, that was once you... and me... save the grace of God! And until Jesus returns to judge the living and the dead, we offer in humility, the remedy that we have been given... Faith in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection. We love all and especially each other for by our love for one another all will know we are the

5 one's with the remedy.

Vs. 6

How can we verify all this? What do we “test” by (Vs. 1)? His word through those who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, to write scripture. Here's another test. Do those you listen to have the authority of the word of God over their lives? Those who do, know God. Those who do not, do not know God. It is *by this* we know the distinction of truth and error.

We fact check it all by God's word...

COMMUNION

Let a person *examine* himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:28

6. Bobby Grossi

March 29, 2023 at 3:56:36 PM

Either 1 command or 2 separate commands? More study is needed!

7. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 3:03:10 PM

[24] Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Study Notes

1 John 4:1-6

Main Point- Test

Key Words- Spirit 8x

Key Verse- Vs. 4

FCF- False teaching, deception.

General God Key Words Command Truth Sin

- [6] [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.

Initial Observations

Vs. 1

The main idea last week was, "Believe that. Love this". Believe God, who knows all, over your heart's condemnation. Love the church, the people of God. The next verse is an imperative; "Do not believe", which seems intentional.- Believe this. Do Not believe that. This section is clearly set up by 3:24, which is a contrast between the "spirit" of the antichrist (vs. 3) and the true Spirit who God has given us.

The imperative is either 2 commands or part 1 and 2 of the same command. "But" is a contrast word that could mean *and*.³ When considering 3:24 with 4:1 you could say; [24] *God abides in us. How do we know? By this, the one true Spirit lives in us.* [4:1]

³ a marker of a series of coordinate relations which are contrastive with a previously identified event or state—'and.'
Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*

8. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 4:25:19 PM
2 John 7

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (ESV)

9. Bobby Grossi

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The word ὁμολογεῖ means “to say the same thing, confess, or agree.” It is not a mere statement of facts. Stott comments: “Even evil and unclean spirits recognized the deity of Jesus during his earthly ministry (e.g. Mk. 1:24; 3:11; 5:7–8; cf. Acts 19:15). But though they knew him, they did not acknowledge him” (Letters of John, 157). Plummer asserts that “we are not to suppose that all other articles of faith are unimportant ... but against the errors prevalent in that age this was the great safeguard” (Epistles of S. John, 95). Marshall says that “it is possible that John’s opponents thought they could confess Jesus as Lord but without accepting the fact that he was the Word incarnate, and therefore John had to stress that the confession must be made in this particular form” (Epistles of John, 206). Calvin adds, “But let us remember what this confession contains. When the apostle says that Christ came, we infer that he was before with the Father. By this His eternal divinity is shown” (The Gospel according to St. John, Part 2 (11–21) and The First Epistle of John, CNTC [Grand

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BUT, you who are loved by God, not every “spirit” is of God; don’t believe them and test every spirit. There are false preachers and teachers who might seem ok, but they are still of the world so their teaching comes from a dark place. (RPG Version)

*Test:*to try to learn the genuineness of something by examination and testing

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 331). New York: United Bible Societies.

Read Vs. 2

Another “by this” statement. This is a clear and direct affront to the false teaching of the day. It’s picked up again in **2 John 2:7**. This is known as Docetism ([Article HERE](#)), which is a form of Gnosticism.

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11. Bobby Grossi

July 8, 2023 at 7:59:16 PM

and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

12. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 6:04:48 PM

[18] Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. [19] They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

13. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 6:18:56 PM

[2:26] I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

True faith in the true Christ=true life. This is a good reminder of our series "Narrative"; all cults seem to have a deviation of 2 things; Who Christ is and/or what Christ has done (the Gospel). This is also shown by the more general statement in vs. 3.

11

Vs. 3

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12

13

To show his glory!

What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— Romans 9:22-23

To show his providential care.

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:20

To strengthen our faith,

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than

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July 5, 2023 at 6:59:37 PM

[15] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7

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Just to name a few!!! If only we could see life through this lens. How much easier would our battles be? Paul tells a story in 2 Cor. 12 about visions he had of the heavens.

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There is a confidence in the spiritual realm. Our disposition to these things is this. (Read vs. 4)

Vs. 4

This is our disposition in the divine battle; 1. We know who we are... from God. 2. We are over-comers. 3. Not because we are great but because he who dwells in us is! 4. God is greater... period!

Vs. 5

Popularity is not the test. It's who they are *of*. People in the world will listen to people of the world, bound by the *spirit of the antichrist*. But our response to the people in this world is spelled out for us. We are called to not "love" the world or the things of the world. 2:25-17. But this is the world systems of thought; materialism, nihilism, worldly hedonism, and not to covet the things of this world for it is not our home!!! But the people, stuck in the puppetry of the *spirit of the antichrist*? Well, that was once you... and me... save the grace of God! And until Jesus returns to judge the living

15. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 7:10:48 PM
John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (ESV)

16. Bobby Grossi

July 6, 2023 at 6:32:08 AM
The majority of these texts were too similar to post variations.

17. Bobby Grossi

July 6, 2023 at 6:43:42 AM
to believe something to be true and, hence, worthy of being trusted—“to believe, to think to be true, to regard as trustworthy.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 369). New York: United Bible Societies.

and the dead, we offer in humility, the remedy that we have been given... Faith in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection. We love all and especially each other for by our love for one another all will know we are the one’s with the remedy.

Vs. 6

How can we verify all this? What do we “test” by (Vs. 1)? His word through those who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, to write scripture. Here’s another test. Do those you listen to have the authority of the word of God over there lives? Those who do, know God. Those who do not, do not know God. It is *by this* we know the distinction of truth and error.

We fact check it all by God’s word...

16

Translations

4:1

ESV-[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.

AMP-BELOVED, DO not put *faith in every spirit, but prove (test) the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world.

NLT-Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

MSG-My dear friends, don’t believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of *lying preachers loose in the world.

17

*Thoughts- I like how the AMP says “faith”. Though the Greek word can be used interchangeably, in our day saying, “I believe you”, doesn’t necessarily mean you trust the person, but in this verse believing what they say and trusting the person saying it, seems to be implied.

18. Bobby Grossi

July 5, 2023 at 4:23:11 PM

Every spirit (not so much the personal teacher as the principle or tendency of the doctrine) which confesseth not Jesus. This is the true reading, the words Χριστόν ἐν σαρκί ἐληλυθότα being a spurious addition from ver. 1. As so often, St. John states the case both negatively and positively for emphasis. There is an ancient variant reading of much interest, probably of Latin origin, which can be traced back to the second century, being known to Tertullian and Irenæus. For μή ὁμολογῆ τὸν Ἰησοῦν it gives λύει τὸν Ἰησοῦν, solvit Jesum. This corruption of the text was evidently aimed at those who distinguished the man Jesus from the Divine Christ, and thus “dissolved” his Personality. The Greek manuscripts are quite unanimous against the reading.

Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). 1 John (p. 102). London;

“Lying preachers” is a great way to say it, since preaching is the majority of the prophetic we experience.

4:2

ESV-[2] By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

NIV- *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

AMP- By this you may know (perceive and recognize) the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges and confesses [the fact] that Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [actually] has become man and has come in the flesh is of God [has God for its source];

NLT- This is how we know if *they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.

MSG-Here’s how you test for the genuine Spirit of God. Everyone who confesses openly his faith in Jesus Christ—the Son of God, who came as an actual flesh-and-blood person—comes from God and belongs to God.

***Thoughts-** “By this”. The NIV, NLT & MSG use the idea of *how-* by means of, which makes sense. (See “Reassure” study notes, “By this”). The NLT adds an interesting twist to this verse. Note how all the other translations seem to be emphatic- recognize or know the “Spirit of God”, yet the NLT says, ‘know if *they have* the Spirit of God’, which its understandable, since the main subject is the false prophets from vs. 1.

4:3

ESV-[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.

The KJV and KNJV add “in the flesh” after “does not confess Jesus”. I get the idea, since it is carrying over from 4:2, but it’s not what the original says, so it seems to be adding to the word unnecessarily.

18

4:4

ESV-[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.

4:5

ESV-[5] They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

4:6

ESV-[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