

A Study of the General Epistles

(NT Survey Lesson 209--1 John 4)

Introduction: In this chapter John continues to explore the theme of how we may know we have eternal life (5:12). John emphasizes the need to "test the spirits" (v. 1-6) and "love one another" (v. 7-21).

Lesson aim: To emphasize the need to be discerning in teaching and to love one another.

Believe not every spirit but test the spirits--1 Jn. 4:1-6

1. With what exhortation does John begin this section? Why is this exhortation necessary?
2. The source of truth is the _____ of God (v. 2). If one is speaking in accord with the Spirit's teaching, what does he say about Jesus?
3. What does the spirit of antichrist say about Jesus?
4. What enables the Christian to overcome the false teachings of men? (v. 4)
5. To whom is the world more likely to listen: to the false teacher or the true teacher? (v. 5) Why is this so?
6. To whom does the man who knows God listen?

Love one another--1 Jn. 4:7-21

1. With what exhortation does John begin this paragraph? Why should we obey it?
2. God is _____. How did God manifest this love? (v. 9) Was God's love a response to our love? (v. 10)
3. What should God's love for his children cause those children to do? (v. 11)

4. What does loving our brethren prove about us? (v. 12) How can we know that we abide in Him and He in us? (v. 13)
5. What testimony did the witnesses of Jesus give about Him? (v. 14) What does John say about those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God?
6. What did John affirm he had believed about God? (v. 16) How does John say this love is perfected in us? (v. 17) What are the results? (v. 17)
7. As _____ is, so are we in the world (v. 17). What does this mean?
8. What does love for God cast out? (v. 18) Why?
9. What does John say about the man who professes to love God but hates his brother? What is God's command to those who love Him? (v. 21)