

This. Is. Love.
1 John 4:1 – 5:4
October 14, 2014

- I. Spiritual Discernment – 1 John 4:1-6
 - A. Anointing of the Spirit
 1. God has given us his _____
 - a. But there are others who claim to be spiritually _____
 - b. How do we _____ what is true and what is false?
 - B. Two Spirits
 1. The Spirit of _____
 - a. God's Spirit _____ Jesus
 2. The spirit of _____
 - a. _____ the truth about Jesus
 3. Not two _____ spirits
 - a. The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit _____ and _____ in our world and in our lives
 - b. The spirit of antichrist is the _____ and _____ of the world that come from Satan
 - C. False Prophets – Vs. 1
 1. Testing the _____
 - a. Might include a _____ apprehension
 - b. Evaluating objectively what is being said against the _____ standard of Truth
 - c. There was no _____ canon, but that doesn't mean there was no _____
 2. Prophets
 - a. _____ of God
 3. The secessionists
 - a. Claimed to have "_____ revelation" about Jesus and the Spirit
 4. Are there prophets today?

D. First Test – What is Said About Jesus – Vv. 2-3

1. Three things asserted about _____
 - a. He is the _____ Word of God
 - b. He is fully _____ and fully _____
 - c. Jesus is the sole source of _____ life
2. The Spirit of God _____ glorifies Jesus
 - a. He is a witness to the _____ about Jesus
 - b. Any teaching about Jesus that does not fit with Scripture is _____
3. More than a _____

4. Antichrist
 - a. Future person will come, but the _____ and _____ teaching he will profess is already here

E. Second Test: Who is the Audience? – Vv. 4-6

1. Reassurance
 - a. You are from _____
 - b. You have _____ them
 - c. Why?

2. The world is _____

F. Today

1. Are there other “_____” and other theological truths to which we must hold?
 - a. John is writing here about a _____ situation

 - b. Underscores the tremendous importance of _____ God’s Truth so we can _____ it when we hear it

II. Love...Again – 1 John 4:7 – 5:4

A. Echoing Earlier Ideas

1. Returning to the topic of _____
2. John is telling us what _____ our love for one another
 - a. He wants us to see the _____ between love and God
3. God is _____
 - a. Earlier he told us God is _____

B. A Portrait of God's Love – Vv. 7-10

1. _____ love
 - a. It is not inspired by a _____
 - b. God's _____ love for us _____ us to love others
2. Our love for each other is _____ we have been born of God and we know God
3. Have been born God
 - a. _____ tense with continuing impact
 - b. We have _____ been born of God, but we continue to bear the _____ of that birth
4. Know God
 - a. _____ tense – an ongoing, continual, growing _____
5. The secessionists
 - a. John probably chose this wording because the _____ made these claims
 - b. But they did not bear the fruit of _____
6. _____ is love
 - a. John is saying that _____ of God's activity is _____
 - b. Love is the _____ of his being
7. If we truly know this God of love, our lives and our behavior *will* _____
8. God's ultimate gift of love: _____
 - a. The word is *phaneroo*, which literally means " _____ "
 - b. It is something completely _____
9. Purpose: That we might have _____
 - a. Life is found only in _____
10. He is our *hilasmos*
 - a. The atoning _____ that gives us life

C. The Response to God's Love – Vv. 11-16

1. Reassurance
 - a. That his readers are in the _____
2. _____ one another
 - a. It is the (_____) natural by-product of God's love for us
3. God is _____
 - a. But our love for one another is _____
4. As we love one another, we _____ God living in us and we in him

D. The Results of Christian Love – Vv. 17-19

1. *By this* love is made _____ among us
 - a. By all he has said – as God’s _____ works in us, as we know God’s _____ for us, as we _____ it toward others – God’s love is made complete in us
2. Confidence
 - a. As God’s works in and through us, enabling us to love one another, we have _____
 - b. We are confident in his _____ for us and ours for him
3. Because in this _____ we are like him
 - a. Literally: Because as he is, we are also in this world
 - b. World here means the _____ world
 - c. “He” is _____
 - d. John probably means, “We are in this _____ as he was.”
4. How does this give us confidence?
 - a. When we love as _____ loved in this world, we can be confident and not _____ before him
5. “Perfect love” means a love for _____ which is based on our sense of God’s love for us

E. An Exhortation to Love – 1 John 4:20 – 5:4

1. An eye toward the _____
 - a. They claimed love for and _____ of God
 - i. But they did not love _____
 - b. John says we _____ love God and not love our brothers and sisters in Christ
 - c. If we don’t love our brothers and sisters in Christ, we don’t love _____
2. Whoever loves the _____
 - a. This is a _____ example
 - b. He’s not saying, if you love _____ who is a father, you’ll love his kids
 - c. He’s saying if you love _____ father, you’ll love your father’s children
3. God is my _____
4. To love God means to love his other _____
5. If we love God, we will also _____ him
6. His commands are not _____
 - a. Because God has given us his Spirit to _____ us to keep them

III. APPLICATION: Rediscovering the _____ of God's Love

A. The Call to Love Others

1. It is fueled not by _____
 - a. Not by law or _____
2. It is fueled by the realization that God has _____ himself to us so exhaustively that we can do nothing other than respond with love

B. Our View of God

1. Perhaps we see him as a doting, soft _____
 - a. That is decidedly _____ who God is
2. In John's day, people had a much clearer picture of God's awesomeness, his might, and his _____
3. God is great and mighty and _____

4. And yet...this great and awesome Lord is also interested in profound _____ with you