

Christ in You is the Difference

1) 1John 4:1 – 3 NKJV

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

- a. How do we test the spirits to see if they are of God?
- b. What does it mean that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh?

2) 1John 4:4 – 6

⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

- a. Who is He that is in us that is greater than he that is in the world?

3) 1John 4:7 – 11

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- a. How did God show His love toward us?
- b. What does “only begotten” son of God mean?
- c. What is the litmus test of Christ in us being greater than he that is in the world?

4) 1John 4:12 – 16

¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been 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 the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

- a. How do we know that God abides in us?
- b. What do we testify?
- c. What happens when we confess that Jesus is the Son of God? (See John 5:18; John 14:9)

5) 1John 4:17 – 21

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

- a. Why does God's love for us make us bold?
- b. What holds believers in Jesus back from living like "as He is, so are we in this world"?
- c. What is perfect love that casts out fear?
- d. How do we love God?
- e. What is the commandment that we have from Jesus?
- f. If we break this commandment to love God and our brother, what then?