

Discernment: Recognizing Truth from Error (1 John 4:1-6)

February 8, 2026

TEXT: 1 Jn. 4:1-6

Matt. 7:15-23

*Discernment is the ability to know truth from error, right and wrong; it's the ability to think biblically. **Heb. 4:12**

MAIN IDEA—Living with discernment is vital to faith in Christ and a healthy walk with God.

MEMORY VERSE—1 Thess. 5:21-22

EXAMINE WHAT THEY SAY (1 Jn. 4:1-3)—Since there are many false prophets in the world, John teaches that we should discern the spirit behind the message.

**Confessing that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh* is a fundamental belief of Christianity.

Rom. 10:9-10; 13

Jn. 1:1-14

R.C. Sproul (1939-2017) -- *At the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, the church, in opposition to the Arian heresy, declared that Jesus is begotten, not made, and that His divine nature is of the same essence (homo ousios) with the Father. This affirmation declared that the Second Person of the Trinity is one in essence with God the Father. That is, the 'being' of Christ is the being of God. He is not merely similar to Deity, but He is Deity.*

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Jn. 16:8-10; 1 Cor. 12:3

Gal. 1:6-9

WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS? Are you depending on CHRIST ALONE as your MESSIAH who came in the flesh to redeem you?

EXAMINE HOW THEY LIVE (1 John 4:4-6)—Beliefs that lead to greater faith in Christ and commitment to God's word are of God, while beliefs that move people away from trusting Christ and living by the Gospel are not.

John 8:31-32, 47

2 Timothy 2:15

***LEARN TO BE A BEREAN [Acts 17:10-12]!**

Application—Take a Gospel, this letter or one of the Epistles and read and reread and meditate and pray over it for a month and let God grow you in having an ear to LISTEN TO HIS WORD.