

***Let's Dismiss Our Kids to Their
Kid's Quest Department!***



The Text:

I John 4:7-21!

The Title:

***Testing the “Would Be” Teachers for
Truth!***

The Theme:

Fellowship!

A Summary of Our Study!

For the past few weeks John has been developing a foundational truth of the Bible – that without a personal relationship with Christ, there can be no fellowship with God the Father.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come ... and men loved the darkness rather than the Light. (John 3:16-19)

Let's Review!

Chapter One:

The CONDITION necessary for Fellowship!

Chapter Two:

The CONDUCT that results from Fellowship!

Chapter Three:

The CHARACTERISTICS caused by Fellowship!

Chapter Four:

The CAUTION when seeking Fellowship!

(Here John turns from words of wisdom to words of warning)

Let's Look at the Text!

1 John 4:7-21!



The Setting of I John

In this short epistle, John is standing before us both as a loyal pastor and a loving parent.

And as he stands before us he invites us to call for a time-out in our busy lives so that we might evaluate where we are in our fellowship with God!

And because of his love for us, he addresses everyone: His is writing to the little children, the fathers, and the young men!

Last Week's Sermon Outline!

A. (4:1-6) Testing for the spirit of **ERROR**.

1. The **Caution**: *What should we do?*
2. The **Commentary**: *Why should we do it?*
3. The **Conclusion**: *How will we know the difference?*



Last Week's Sermon Outline!

A. (4:1-6) Testing for the spirit of **ERROR**.

3. (vs.2-6) The **Conclusion**: ***By Means of CONTRAST!***

a. (vs.2-3) The spirit that recognizes the **incarnation** is from God. The spirit that doesn't is of the antichrist.

b. (vs.4-5) The spirit that has **trusted** in Christ is of God. The spirit that doesn't is not.

c. (v.6) The spirit that **follows** the apostles teachings is of God. The spirit that doesn't is not.

(TEST the spirits / Do not TRUST the spirits of men)

This Week's Sermon Outline!

A. (4:1-6) Testing for the spirit of **ERROR**.

B. (4:7-21) Testing for the SPIRIT of **TRUTH**.

1. (vs.7-11) The **Foundation** for the test.

2. (vs.12-21) The **Focus** of the test.



This Week's Sermon Outline!

1. (vs.7-11) The **Foundation** for the test.

a. (v.7) **John's Call**: Since the believer has so graciously received God's **passion**, he/she should be motivated to pass God's love on to others.

1.) **The Reason** – You are “beloved” by God.

2.) **The Reality** – God is the source of your love.

3.) **The Result** – Those born of God are God's sons, and thus, should live their lives in a way that reflects their eternal relationship (fellowship) that is the result of God's love. (Child should look like his parent)



This Week's Sermon Outline!

1. (vs.7-11) The **Foundation** for the test.
 - a. (v.7) **John's Call**: Pass on God's **passion**.
 - b. (v.8) **John's Conclusion**: The believer's love for God **points-out** the difference between the believer and the pretender.

Three Essential Truths about the Heretic:

1. Heretics replace **doctrine** with **deception**.
2. Heretics replace **practice** with **principle**.
3. Heretics replace **application** with **apathy**.

This Week's Sermon Outline!

1. (vs.7-11) The **Foundation** for the test.

c. (vs.9-11) **John's Commentary**: God's love **provides**
(the source of) the fellowship that takes place between the believer and his God.

Here John offers **Three Proofs** for God's love:

1st Proof / v.9: The Incarnation of Jesus!

2nd Proof / v.10: The Propitiation of Jesus!

3rd Proof / v.11: The Believer's New Life in Jesus!

This Week's Sermon Outline!

A. (4:1-6) Testing for the spirit of **ERROR**.

B. (4:7-21) Testing for the SPIRIT of **TRUTH**.

1. (vs.7-11) The **Foundation** for the test.

2. (vs.12-21) The **Focus** of the test.

In the verses now before us, John turns our attention from God's love for us, to the believer's love for God. His hope and goal is to unite the love of God and the love of the believer together – since it is true that God so much loved us, shouldn't it also be true that we love Him?

This Week's Sermon Outline!

B. (4:7-21) Testing for the SPIRIT of **TRUTH**.

1. (vs.7-11) The **Foundation** for the test.

2. (vs.12-21) The **Focus** of the test.

a.(v.12) **Our Calling**: The believer's love reflects his/her **position** in Christ.

While the unsaved world refuses to see or know Christ, it can experience the truth of God's existence and love through the changed lifestyle of the believer. (Mt. 5:13-16 / I Jo.1:5)

This Week's Sermon Outline!

2. (vs.12-21) The **Focus** of the test.

a.(v.12) **Our Calling**: The believer's love should reflect his **position**.

b. (vs13-18) **Our Comfort**: The believer's love **proves** his position.

The Proofs: (of our fellowship)

1. (v.13) God's **Spirit** lives inside the believer!

2. (v.14) God's **love is confessed** by the believer!

3. (v.15) God "the Father" **abides** in us & we in Him!

4. (v.16) God's **love is lived out** in the life of the believer!

5. (v.17) God's **love is perfected by future blessing!**

6. (v.18) God's **love eliminates fear** when facing conflict!

This Week's Sermon Outline!

2. (vs.12-21) The **Focus** of the test.

b. (vs13-18) **Our Comfort**: The believer's love **proves** his position.

c. (vs.19-21) **Our Conclusion**: The believer should **practice** love!

1.) (v.19) **The Reason**: Having received love we need to pass it on!

2.) (v.20) **The Recognition**: God's love, when displayed, glorifies Him!

3.) (v.21) **The Reality**: Summary of his teaching!

Fellowship / Obedience / Love / Fellowship!

Let's Apply John's Message

Something for us to think about!

**THE MEANING OF LIFE IS
TO FIND YOUR GIFT. THE
PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO
GIVE IT AWAY.**

PABLO PICASSO



Our Journey Continues

- I. (***Chapter 1***) The **CONDITION**
needed for fellowship!
- II. (***Chapter 2***) The **CONDUCT**
resulting from fellowship!
- III. (***Chapter 3***) The **CHARACTERISTICS**
produced in fellowship!
- IV. (***Chapter 4***) The **CAUTIONS**
when seeking fellowship!
- V. (***Chapter 5***) The **CONSEQUENCES**
of true fellowship!