

**The Spirits
of Truth and
Falsehood: 4:1-6**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

test (v. 1)
Greek: dokimazo

Put to the test; prove; examine; word used of testing metals and coins to determine their weight and worth.

The nature of false teachers (1-6)

1. They appear to be _____ (Matt. 7:15; 2 Cor. 11:14)
2. They lead people _____ (Matt. 24:11)
3. They are able to perform _____ wonders (Matt. 24:24; cf. Exodus 7:22)
4. They may sometimes arise from within the _____ (Acts 20:30)
5. They deny that Jesus Christ has come in the _____ (1 John 4:3)
6. Their lives are often overrun by _____ (Matt. 7:16)
7. Their errors are mostly _____ based (2 Peter 2:1)
8. They are often characterized by _____ (2 Peter 2:3)
9. Many of these teachers will be able to gain a _____ (2 Tim. 4:3)
10. These teachers operate in _____ (Jude 4; 12)
11. Ultimately, these false teachers will be _____ by God (2 Pet. 2:12)

Light from ancient history (v. 3)



Cerintus

ca. AD 100

taught that Jesus was separate from Christ



the "Christ" spirit came on the man Jesus at His baptism, but left Him before his crucifixion; only the man Jesus died and rose again.

Engaging the text

Read 1 John 4:1-6

What does John mean by "spirits?" Why is it important to test the spirits? (v. 1)

What criteria can we use to judge the truthfulness of a spiritual teacher? (v. 2-3)

What is the spirit of the antichrist? (v. 3)

How are we to withstand the temptations of false teachers? (v. 4)

What does it mean when spiritual teachers do not submit themselves to the orthodoxy of the Bible? (v. 6)

Notes on the text

Verse 1

Verse 2

Verses 3-4

Verses 5-6

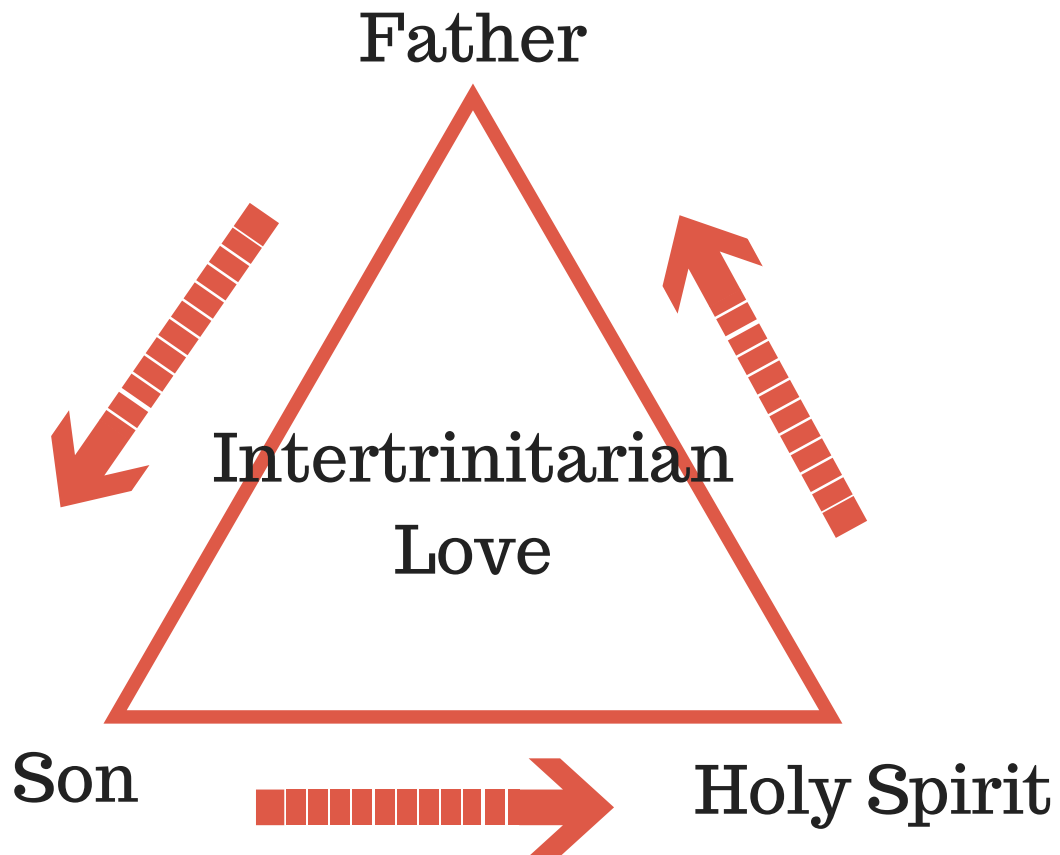
**God's
Love and our
Love: 4:7-12**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

propitiation (v. 10)
Greek: hilasmos

Orig. an offering to appease an angry
offended party; refers to the atoning
blood of Christ that turns away God's
wrath.

Love begins with God (8)



John 17:24: "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."

The nature of God's love for us (9-11)

God's love was self- _____ (John 3:16)

God's love is _____ (Romans 5:8)

God's love is _____ (John 13:1)

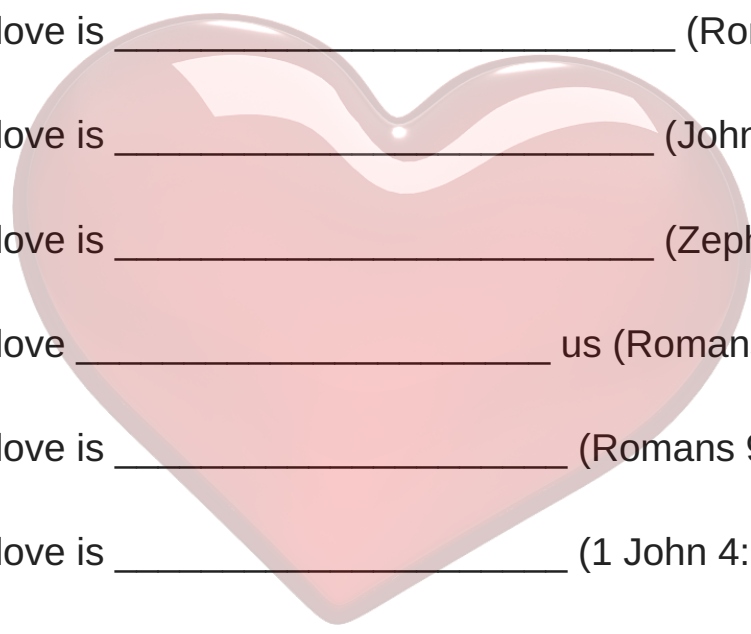
God's love is _____ (Zephaniah 3:17)

God's love _____ us (Romans 8:37-39)

God's love is _____ (Romans 9:13)

God's love is _____ (1 John 4:10)

God's love is _____ (Ephesians 3:19)



Engaging the text

Read 1 John 4:7-12

What two things are true of a person who loves the brethren? (v. 7)

What characteristic of God controls all His activity? (v. 8)

In what way did God demonstrate His love toward us? (v. 9)

Where does love originate? (v. 10)

No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, in what ways do we experience God? (v. 12)

Notes on the text

Verse 7

Verse 8

Verses 9-10

Verses 11-12

**Assurance
and Christian
Love: 4:13-5:4**

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 his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot[a] love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

perfected (v. 17)
Greek: teleioo

Complete; finish; to consummate; in context refers to the maturation of love.

The foundations of Christian certainty (13-16)



**Objective historical fact
of the Son's mission (v. 14-15)**

**Subjective inward experience
of the Spirit's witness (v. 13)**

Accepted in the Beloved (17)

God the Father treats believers the same way He treats His One and Only Son



He also calls us 'sons' (3:1)



We, too, can call God 'Father' (Matt. 6:9)



We, too, are God's Beloved (Eph. 1:6)



We share the Son's righteousness (Rom. 3:21-22)

A short theology of the new birth (5:1)

People need _____ because Jesus said we do. (John 3:3-8)

We need regeneration because people are _____ to _____
(Jer. 13:23)

People cannot _____ their own regeneration. (Acts 16:14; John 6:65)

Regeneration is an act of _____ the _____ (1 Peter 1:3)

Regeneration is an act of _____ the _____ (John 5:21)

Regeneration is the work of the _____ (John 3:5) upon those who are spiritually _____.

Regeneration is effected by God's _____ (James 1:17-18)

Regeneration is not a _____ work (John 1:12)

Regeneration _____ faith.

In regeneration, the Spirit _____ the human _____, quickening it from spiritual _____ to spiritual _____.

Engaging the text

Read 1 John 4:13-5:4

What proof do we have that we belong to God? (v. 13)

What other proof do we have that we belong to God? (v. 14-16)

What does John mean by the word "perfected?" (v. 17)

What is one consequence of "perfected" love in believers? (v. 17)

Why don't believers consider God's commandments to be burdensome? (5:3-4)

Notes on the text

Verse 13-16

Verse 17-21

Verses 5:1-2

Verses 3-4
