**Sermon Notes**

“The Need for Discernment”

1 John 4:1-6

September 12, 2021

**Growth Group Homework**

For the week of 09-12-21

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., 1, 2 & 3 John: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2013, pp. 73-77; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 322; Lyman Coleman, et.al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 460.

**Getting Started:**

1. What standard would you use for testing a person’s credentials to do your job?

**Digging Deeper:**

Read 1 John 4:1-6.

1. How can we distinguish truth from error in spiritual matters? What tests does John present (4:1-6)? Are the tests in 4:1-6 useful to you in any ways? If so, how? If not, why not?
2. Compare John’s test in 1 John 4:1-3 to the Old Testament test for prophets in Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:14-22. What do the two have in common?
3. John presents a statement of faith (4:2) that true prophets believe. What do you believe about Jesus’ nature? What difference does it make whether he was truly divine or not? Truly human or not?
4. For thought and discussion: In what sense have John’s readers “overcome” the false teachers (4:4)?
5. Pray about the fact that “the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (4:4). How should this fact affect how you think and what you do this week?
6. Why isn’t it arrogant for John to say, “Whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us” (4:6)? Recall 1:1-4.
7. What influences in your life (for example, books, movies, music, ideas, etc.) will you “put to the test” this week to see whether they are from God?
8. Pray for any people you know who are tempted to follow the teaching and behavior of groups who deny that Jesus is the one and only Christ.

**Let's Pray:**