

Lesson 5

1 John 4:1-21

• Questions

1. What did John tell his readers to do and why (4:1)?

2. How does one know the spirit of God and the spirit of the anti-christ (4:2-3)?

3. What contrast did John make between the brethren and the false prophets (4:4-5)?

4. How does one know what is truth and what is error (4:6)?

5. Why do brethren love one another (4:7-8, 11, 19)?

6. How did God manifest his love to the world (4:9-10)?

7. What must a Christian do in order for God to abide in him, and he, the Christian, to abide in God (4:12-16)?

8. What does “perfect love” give and what does it do (4:17-18)?

9. What is one way a Christian can be a liar (4:20)?

10. What commandment do Christians have (4:21)?

• Digging Deeper

1. What is “spirit” in this context (4:1-3, 6)? What is the connection between “spirit” in 4:1-3, 6, and “Spirit” in 3:24, 4:2a, and 4:13??
2. What other place in 1 John, and where in 2 John, do we read about the “anti-christ” (4:3)?
3. Who is “he that is in you” and who is “he that is in the world” (4:4)?
4. What does “propitiation” mean (4:10; see also 2:2)?
5. Where in the gospel of John did Jesus give a commandment to love one another (4:21; see also 3:11, 23; 2 Jn. 5)?

• Applications for Today

1. We do not blindly follow the claims of a religious teacher. We must always prove (test), using God’s word, what someone teaches (4:1-3). What did Paul say about proving (testing) in 2 Corinthians 13:5 and 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22? What did Jesus (Mt. 7:15) and Peter (2 Pet. 2:1) warn against? Who was Elymas (Acts 13:6-8)?
2. God’s word is truth and Christians listen to truth. Man’s word is error and the world listens to error (4:4-6). How do Christians keep from being led astray by error (Eph. 4:13-14; 2 Thess. 2:10-12)?
3. Because God loved us, we as Christians, are to love one another (4:7-21; see also 3:11-12, 23; 2 Jn. 5). What should accompany our love one toward another (Rom. 12:10;

Eph. 4:2)? What is our love one toward another to do (1 Thess. 3:12; 2 Thess. 1:3)? How are we to love one another (1 Pet. 1:22)?

4. Love is not true biblical love until it is manifest or shown in action (4:9-10). What persons are Christians to show love to? (Include a brief example of how we can show love to each person.)

Matthew 5:44 –

Matthew 22:37, 39 –

Romans 12:10 –

2 Corinthians 2:8 –

2 Corinthians 8:24 –

Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33 –

Ephesians 6:24 –

1 Thessalonians 3:12 –

1 Thessalonians 5:13 –

Hebrews 13:2 –

1 Peter 2:17 –

1 John 3:17-18 –