

Leader

1 John 4:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

Cong.

1 John 4:3-4 (ESV)

This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Leader

1John 4:5-6 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> They are from the world;  
therefore they speak from the world,  
and the world listens to them.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

Cong.

1 John 4:13-15 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God



**Test the Spirits!**  
**1 John 4:1-6**

Theme: Testing the spirits enables us to detect and defeat the spirit of antichrist.



# Masters of disguise



# Test the spirits (4:1)

- Beloved,
- Do not believe every spirit, [*Stop believing*]
- But test [*dokimazo*] the spirits [1Cor. 2:12-16]
- To see whether they are from God,
- For many false prophets have gone out into the world

## Test the spirit's...source (4:2,3)

- <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God:
  - every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,
  - <sup>3</sup> 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.

# Test the company they keep (4:4-6)

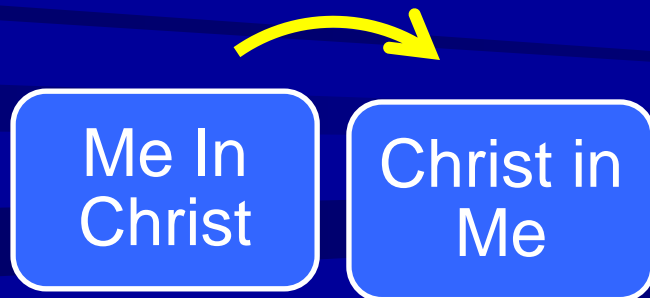
- <sup>4</sup> Little children, **you**
- are from God & have overcome them,
- for he who is in you is greater
  - than he who is in the world.
- <sup>5</sup> **They** are from the world;
  - therefore they speak from the world,
  - and the world listens to them.

# Test the company they keep (4:4-6)

- <sup>6</sup> **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.
- John 18:37; 1Cor. 12:3

## Test for Assurance 4:13-15

- <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,
  - because he has given us of his **Spirit**.
- <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the **Father** has sent his **Son** to be the Savior of the world.
- <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God



## How am I doing?

- If a confusing situation arose, could you handle it? Using your authority in Christ (Eph. 6) claim the following...
- “I accept only what’s coming to me from God and reject what Satan is bringing.”
- “I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ & claim His protection.”