

The Spirit of Truth

Sermon 11 in the 1 John Series

1 John 4:1-13

In verses 1-6 -- in the NKJV -- 12 times we find that “of”

Six times “of” references those who are of God and the truth.

Six times those who are of antichrist , of the world and of error.

I. The Test of Orthodoxy 4:1-6

A. Many False Prophets v. 1

B. Jesus is the test of orthodoxy 4:2-3

1. The positive -- v. 2

“Confess” -- more than mere words. Rom. 10:9,13

⁹ if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved

Then – the confession itself -- Jesus is the **Christ (the Messiah) has come** (perfect tense – which means it is a completed action) **in the flesh** (He is the incarnation of God).

2. The negative v. 3

They deny the incarnation and/or they deny the person and work of Christ

C. The Antichrist and the World v. 4-6

II. The Work of the Spirit 4:7-13

Verses 7-12 elaborate on themes we have already seen in 1 John.

Verse 13 elaborates on what we saw introduced in **3:24**

The Spirit is the witness of Jesus.

The Spirit’s focus is – to show forth Jesus.

The Spirit indwells us – and constantly points us to Christ.

III. Five Aspects of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit John 16:12-15

1. The Holy Ghost is another Paraclete (Helper) like Christ, only He would be with them and in them (and us) 24 hours a day.

2. He acts as “the Spirit of Truth” v. 12-13a

We see the essential unity of the Son and the Spirit in the Trinity.
John 17:17 – Thy Word is truth = (*The Word of you the truth is*)
The inspiration of the Scriptures is uniquely the work of the Holy Spirit.

3. He guides believers into “all truth”

There are three classes of people who need to be guided.
The blind
Those who are too weak to walk by themselves
Those journeying in a foreign land

Geneva Study Bible “This refers to truth about God, not temporal knowledge of every kind. The Spirit guided the NT writers who prepared the new written revelation that would take its place beside the OT Scriptures.

4. He does not speak of Himself (on His own authority), but He speaks what He has heard v. 13b

This passage helps us to understand the Trinity and reconcile many Scriptures.

John Brown “Essentially, the Spirit and the Son are equal to, for they are one with the Father. Economically (*refers to their roles*), the Father is greater than the Son and the Spirit, for He sends Them; The son is greater than the Spirit for He sends Him. Without apprehending this distinction, we cannot interpret the sacred Scriptures, nor form any clear notion of the way of salvation.”

5. He glorifies Christ 14

Arthur Pink “It is a notable fact that nowhere in the Epistles has the Holy Spirit told us anything about the Father which had not previously been revealed in and by the Lord Jesus; but He has told us many things about the Son, which Jesus uttered not in the days of His humiliation.”