

I JOHN – LESSON 7

I. KNOWING THE TRUE SPIRIT (4:1-6)

- A. False spirits are producing false teaching in the world – prove them (v. 1).
- B. The true spirits confess the Christ has come in the flesh (v. 2-3).
- C. Having the spirit of truth is key is overcoming the world (v. 4-6)

II. PERFECTING GOD’S LOVE (4:7-21)

- A. God’s love manifested by the giving of His Son for the sins of all (v. 7-10).
- B. Two demands for abiding in God (v. 11-16)
 - 1. Initiate the same character of love toward our brother as God did toward us.
 - 2. Confess Jesus to be the Son of God.
- C. The blessing of manifesting God’s love toward others: confidence in judgment (v. 17-21)

QUESTIONS:

1. God desires us to (a) readily accept all religious teaching; (b) prove all religious teaching; (c) don’t be too concerned about doctrinal error.
2. What is the objective standard for knowing the true spirit of God?
3. What spirit was already in the world in the first century?
4. What fact lies behind the promise that the child of God has overcome the world?
5. “Herein is love, _____ that we loved God, but that he _____ us, and _____ His Son to be the propitiation for _____.”
6. What should we do because of such love from God?
7. What *two characteristics* should we manifest if we are truly abiding in God?
8. From verses 17-21, give the characteristics of “perfect love.”
9. What blessing is connected with manifesting “perfect love?”
10. IF you do not love your brother you _____ God.