

1 John 4

1 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.

1 John 4

2 By this you will know the Spirit of God:

Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and is already in the world at this time.

1 John 4

4 You, little children, are from God and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1 John 4

5 They are of the world.

That is why they speak from the world's perspective, and the world listens to them.

6 We are from God.

**Whoever knows God listens to us;
whoever is not from God does not listen to us.
That is how we know the Spirit of truth and the
spirit of deception.**

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THE TWO TESTS: The Test of Confession

The test of confession involves three areas:

- 1. True confession includes heart conviction**

Romans 10

9 ...if you **confess with your mouth**, “Jesus is Lord,”

and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with your **heart you believe** and are justified, and with your **mouth you confess** and are saved.

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- 2. A true Christ**

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THE TWO TESTS: The Test of Confession

The test of confession involves three areas:

- 1. True confession includes heart conviction**
- 2. A true Christ - A biblical Christology**

1 John 2

22 Who is the liar, if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?

This is the antichrist, who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well.

2 John 1

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, refusing to confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh.

Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

8 Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what we have worked for, that you may be fully rewarded.

2 John 1

9 Anyone who runs ahead without remaining in the teaching of Christ does not have God.

Whoever remains in His teaching has both the Father and the Son.

10 If anyone comes to you but does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your home or even greet him.

11 Whoever greets such a person shares in his evil deeds.

THE TWO TESTS: The Test of Confession

The test of confession involves three things:

- 1. True confession includes heart conviction**
- 2. A true Christ – A Biblical Christology**
- 3. A true Gospel**

2 Corinthians 11

3 I am afraid, however, that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may be led astray from your simple and pure devotion to Christ.

4 For if someone comes and proclaims a Jesus other than the One we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit than the One you received, or a different gospel than the one you accepted, you put up with it way too easily.

THE TWO TESTS: The Test of Confession

Five Themes of the Gospel:

1. Sacrifice
2. Propitiation
3. Reconciliation
4. Redemption
5. Conquest

THE TWO TESTS: The Test of Confession

Application:

1. Does he live out what he confesses?
2. Does he lift up and exalt Christ above all else?
3. Is he willing to preach the wonders and depth of Christ at the expense of “relevant and practical application”
4. Does he preach the true Gospel frequently?
5. Is he comfortable in probing the depths of what the Gospel truly is rather than shallow one-liners?
6. Does he call people to repentance and faith?
7. Does he trust the Gospel as the power of God for salvation or does he trust in the cleverness and wise speech of man to convince?
8. Does he mostly teach about how to have a more fulfilled life now or that we are called to deny ourselves and take up our cross?
9. Does he preach the true biblical Jesus Christ?

THE TWO TESTS: The Test of Listening



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That is why **they speak from the world's perspective**, and the world listens to them.

THE TWO TESTS: The Test of **Listening**

The test of listening involves:

- 1. They speak from the world's perspective**

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THE TWO TESTS: The Test of **Listening**

The test of listening involves:

- 1. They speak from the world's perspective**
- 2. The world listens to them**

1 Corinthians 1

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,

but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

20 ...Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know Him,

God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

John 17

**14 I have given them Your word and the world
has hated them;**

**for they are not of the world, just as I am not of
the world.**

John 8

43 Why do you not understand what I am saying?

It is because you are unable to accept My message.

44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out his desires.

45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me!

John 8:

46 ...If I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God.

The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

1 John 4

6 We are from God.

Whoever knows God listens to us;

1 John 1

1 That which was from the beginning, which **we** have heard, which **we** have seen with our own eyes, which **we** have gazed upon and touched with our own hands—this is the Word of life.

2 And this is the life that was revealed; **we** have seen it and testified to it, and **we** proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to **us**.

1 John 1

3 **We** proclaim to you what **we** have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with **us**.

And this fellowship of **ours** is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

4 **We write these things** so that our joy may be complete.

THE TWO TESTS: The Test of **Listening**

The test of listening involves:

- 1. They speak from the world's perspective**
- 2. The world listens to them**
- 3. Whoever knows God listens to the apostles
- through the scriptures**

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Whoever knows God listens to us;

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THE TWO TESTS: The Test of **Listening**

The test of listening involves:

- 1. They speak from the world's perspective**
- 2. The world listens to them**
- 3. Whoever knows God listens to the apostles
- through the scriptures**
- 4. Whoever is not from God does not listen to the apostles (scriptures)**

THE TWO TESTS: The Test of **Listening**

Application:

- 1.** Does he lean heavily on the world's wisdom for his teaching?
- 2.** Is his teaching accepted by large numbers of worldly-minded people?
- 3.** Does he have the same high view of scripture that I have?
- 4.** Does he seem to love the word of God?
- 5.** How much scripture does he use in his teachings?
- 6.** Does he make his own assertions and then use scripture to back up the point that he himself has made?
- 7.** Does he actually draw his teaching points out of the text?
- 8.** Does he use biblical terms or substitute for more acceptable ones?
- 9.** Does he teach things that are plainly contrary to scripture?

