

SERMON NOTES

Living in Truth and Love through the Abiding Presence of the Holy Spirit

1 John 3:24–4:21 | Matt Green | July 28, 2019

Test the Spirits: The Holy Spirit and Teaching (3:24–4:6)

- There are many false teachers, so we must be vigilant
- Teaching truly guided by the Holy Spirit confesses Jesus
- Those who are truly God's listen to the Spirit's teaching
- The Holy Spirit enables believers to overcome false teaching

Theological Triage

- **Level One:** Denying is a threat to the Gospel (*e.g., Trinity, humanity/divinity of Jesus, authority of Scripture, justification by faith*)
- **Level Two:** Legitimate disagreement, challenge to fellowship (*e.g., mode of baptism, type of church government, etc.*)
- **Level Three:** Legitimate disagreement, should not challenge fellowship (*e.g., understanding of end times, worship styles, questions of dress, etc.*)
- **NOTE:** No biblical doctrine is unimportant, although some are more foundational than others.

Like Father, Like Children (4:7–12)

- God is love
 - God cannot be understood apart from love, and love cannot be understood apart from God
 - God’s love must be understood in conjunction with His entire character
- True love is demonstrated
 - God demonstrated His love in sending His Son
 - We demonstrate love through care for brothers and sisters

Living in Truth and Love (4:13–21)

- The Holy Spirit helps us see the truth and leads us to trust in Jesus
- As God’s beloved children, we do not fear punishment for sin
- If we don’t love our brothers and sisters who are around us every day, our claim to love God is probably a lie!

Am I seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance in my life?