

CHAPTER FOUR

Vs 1-3 The Spirit of God must be distinguished from false spirits.
This is necessary because many false prophets, inspired by
false spirits, have gone into the world.

The key to testing a spirit to see if it is false or true is to test
their attitude toward the incarnate Person of Jesus Christ.

Denying the Incarnation (its true significance) exposes the
spirit of antichrist.

1Jn 2:18-27; 2Jn 7

Vs 4-6 You are from God
The Holy Spirit indwells you
You overcome them

They, being a part of the world system....speak from the viewpoint
of the world and they get a good hearing from the world.

NOTE: Satanically inspired thought has a special appeal to
worldly minds.

People from God listen to the Apostles.

You - the readers

They - the antichrists

We - the apostles

The Apostolic Word is contained in the Bible.

The Bible is the means by which the Holy Spirit of truth and
the spirits of falsehood can be effectively
distinguished.

True Christianity is Bible-centered Christianity!

Vs 7 A person cannot exercise the love of God without TWO THINGS
being true of them:

1. born of God - a regenerate nature

2. knows God - fellowship with God

This kind of love is the product of
the indwelling Spirit Gal 15:22-25
a confession of the incarnate person of Christ 1Jn 4:2
and
exercising the love of God
demonstrating that the individual is from God 1Jn 4:4

Being "Born of God" carries with it a number of realities:
1Jn 2:29; 3:9; 5:1,4,18

The absence of love is evidence that a person does not know God
(which is part of the human experience);
more so than "proving" a person is unsaved (only God knows).

Vs 8

Stated in the Negative
Because "God is love", a person cannot be "walking with Him" and
also love themselves.

SUMMARY: Being in God's presence causes us to reflect light and
extend Godly love. To remain out of fellowship with Him makes us
look like "mere man".

Vs 9

God's supreme demonstration of love manifested in BELIEVERS
only - Rom 9:22-24

1. God so loved the world Jn 3:26-17; 2Cor 5:14-21
2. God has been satisfied by means of what He has done
1Jn 2:2; Rom 3:21-26
3. That love of God becomes manifest only when a
human receives it

Only begotten (unique; one of a kind) Son
Jn 1:14,18; 3:16
God did it so that we believers might live
Eph 1:4; Jn 6:37-40,44

Vs 10

Expansion of what John has just said in verse 9

We are to understand the level of love that God exercised

"toward us".

Talk About Love:

He loved us - made us the object of His love

Rom 9

He sent His Son - the solution for our sins

Rom 3

When we were not loving Him

Rom 5:6-8,10

Vs 11 Application for us - Beloved - objects of His love
 understand?

Vs 12 The Triune God has never been seen?
(Jn 1:18 John has stated this before.)
Until? Col 1:19; 2:9
Heb 1:3 In what way is verse 12 true?

If we love one another:

1. God abides in us

2. His love is perfected in us Heb5:8-9; 1Jn 2:5; 4:17

Vs 13 By this we know - we in Him_He in us
 because we possess His Spirit 1Jn 3:24
When a believer loves, keeps His commandments - he is drawing
 that from God's Spirit Rom 5:5

In Short: A believer's Spirit-led obedience becomes the evidence
 that he is enjoying the mutual abiding relationship with
God

Vs 14 We - Apostolic Group - as in 1Jn 1:1-4
 John's readers included

have beheld the One who can't be beheld - vs12

bear witness - Jn 17:6-8,20

the Father sent the Son to be Savior

world - limited vs unlimited

Vs 15 Making this profession (from the heart) says something
 about the person making it! 1Jn 4:2

Vs 16

We have come:

1. to know

2. and have believed the love God has for us
(faith in that love)



1 JOHN CHAPTER FOUR

Vs 17

"By this" refers back to verse 16

Let Him find us loving when He comes for us.

The judgment that awaits us 1Cor3:12-15; 2Cor 5:10

Our "emotional state" when He arrives to take us to that judgment.

The extent of our confidence will be directly proportional to
"Where we as He was in the world?"

1Jn 2:28; 3:21

Will God approve the quality of our life?

How do we handle His commandments (teachings)?

Do we love?

How "perfected" were we? 1Jn 2:5; 4:12

Vs 18

If a believer looks forward with fear to the Judgment Seat of Christ they must not have been made "perfect" while there is still time

Vs 19

A believer loves because

A believer who loves is facing his judge

1. whom he loves

2. who loves him

Vs 20-21

Sums Up the Thought

Anyone who claims to love God, yet hates his brother makes a false claim - he is a liar!

NOTE: John is not shy about using the word "liar".

1 Jn 10; 2:4,22: 40; 5:10

Love for the unseen God can only be concretely expressed by love for one's visible Christian brother.

THIS COMMAND HAS STOOD FROM THE BEGINNING. 1 Jn3:23-24