

1 John 4:1-6  
“Don’t Believe Everything You Hear”  
Tyler Terlouw 12.31.2017

**Exhortation**

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God...” (vs. 1a)

**Reason**

“for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (vs. 1b)

**Test #1** (vs. 2-3)

What do they confess/teach/preach about Jesus?  
Do they believe in his deity and humanity?  
Do they believe in the incarnation?

*“Without the incarnation we would have no Savior. Sin requires death for its payment. God does not die. So the Savior must be human in order to be able to die. But the death of an ordinary man would not pay for sin eternally, so the Savior must also be God. We must have a God-man Savior, and we do in our Lord.”*

(Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology)

Evaluate the differences between Confessing Christ and Believing in Christ.

**Test #2** (vs. 4-6)

How do they behave?

Spirits that are not from God

- They are consumed with the World.
- They speak the world’s language and give them what they want.
- The world will listen to them.

Spirits that are from God

- They will be compelled by truth.
- They will be rejected by those who don’t know God.
- They are guaranteed victory and protection from evil and error.

**Application**

Use discernment with information/teaching. Test everything you hear.  
When evangelizing, talk about Jesus! It will reveal what somebody believes.  
Evaluate your own life. Does your life confess Jesus to be Lord?  
Never take for granted the blessings we have from the Holy Spirit.