

Jesus' Identity, God's Love, Spirit's Presence

I John 4:1-16 / June 26, 2021 / Lexham English Bible

Introduction:

And this is his commandment:

1. **Jesus' Identity:** that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and
2. **God's Love:** love one another, just as he commanded us.
3. **Spirit's Presence:** And the one who keeps his commandments resides in him, and he in him. And by this we know that he resides in us: by the Spirit whom he has given to us. (I John 3:23-24)

JESUS' IDENTITY: BELIEVE IN JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD 4:1-6

- a) Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from God,
 b) because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

False Gospel

1. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a **different gospel**— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.
2. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a **gospel contrary** to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.
3. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a **gospel contrary** to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:6-10, ESV)

False Jesus, Spirit, Gospel

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

1. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or
2. if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or
3. if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted,

you put up with it readily enough. Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. (2 Corinthians 11:1-6, ESV)

- a) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

In the Flesh: Miracles by Jesus and To Jesus

JESUS	Eight Miracles by Jesus in the Book of John	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
Water to wine	First miracle/Wedding/Cana in Galilee				2:1-11
Fever/Near death	Son of official under Herod/ Jesus spoke/2 nd miracle				4:43-54
Paralysis/Invalid	Man/sat at Bethesda's pool/ 38 years ill/Jesus spoke/ Sabbath				5:1-15
Feeds 5000	Five loaves and two fish/Gave thanks/12 baskets left	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-15
Walks on Water	Sea of Galilee/Peter's walk on water/Jesus touched Peter's hand	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
Blindness	Man/birth/Jesus placed mud on eyes/ washed in pool/ Sabbath				9:1-12
Death	Lazarus/Dead four days/Jesus wept/Jesus spoke				11:1-45
Catch of Fish	After resurrection/ 153 fish caught/Peter swims to shore				21:4-11

	Five Miracles To Jesus	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
Birth	Mary, the mother/virgin birth/Gabriel spoke/baby named Jesus	1:18-25		1:26-38; 2:1-7	
Baptism	Baptized by John/Spirit descends/voice from heaven	3:13-17	1:9-11	3:21-22	1:29-34
Transfiguration	Mountain/Jesus transfigured/Moses and Elijah/Bright cloud/voice from heaven	17:1-13	9:2-13	9:28-36	
Resurrection	Earthquake/Angel/stone moved/guards fled/Peter & John visit tomb/11 appearances	28:1-20	16:1-20	24:1-49	20:1-21:25
Ascension	Taken up into heaven/Witnessed by 11 apostles/Two angels appear		16:19-20	24:50-52 Ac 1:1-11	

B¹⁾ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

The Third Jesus: Deepak Chopra

- “This basic tenet of Christianity is simple: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (page 1)
- “Jesus did not physically descend from God’s dwelling place above the clouds, nor did he return to sit at the right hand of a literal throne. What made Jesus the Son of God was the fact that he had achieved God-consciousness.” (pages 3-4)
- “I want to offer the possibility that Jesus was truly, as he proclaimed, a savior. Not *the* savior, not the one and only Son of God. Rather, Jesus embodied the highest level of enlightenment.” (pages 9-10)
- “There is no irrefutable historical evidence that these four figures (Matthew, Mark, Luke John) wrote anything down, and we do not know the nature of their relationship to Jesus when he was alive. It is likely that many unknown scribes altered the original texts of the New Testament before a final version was settled on between the third and fourth centuries AD. (page 132)
- “The writers of the gospels set out not to tell the facts of a life but to convert nonbelievers and support their own belief in Jesus as the Messiah. To this end they almost certainly exaggerated events, invented miracles, and put words into Jesus’ mouth.” (page 133)
- Second most famous Contemporary Non-fiction writer as of 2021 (YouGovAmerica)

A²⁾ You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

B²⁾ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world and the world listens to them.

The Battle: The Spirit of the World

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be

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| 1. lovers of self, | 11. slanderous, |
| 2. lovers of money, | 12. without self-control, |
| 3. proud, | 13. brutal, |
| 4. arrogant, | 14. not loving good, |
| 5. abusive, | 15. treacherous, |
| 6. disobedient to their parents, | 16. reckless, |
| 7. ungrateful, | 17. swollen with conceit, |
| 8. unholy, | 18. lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, |
| 9. heartless, | 19. having the appearance of godliness, |
| 10. unappeasable, | 20. but denying its power. |

Avoid such people. (2 Timothy 3:1-5, ESV)

A³⁾ We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us;

B³⁾ whoever is not from God does not listen to us.

The Battle for Truth

- You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
 - while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:10-17, ESV)
I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
 - For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.
- As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5, ESV)

A⁴⁾ By this we know the Spirit of truth and

B⁴⁾ the spirit of deceit.

GOD'S LOVE: LOVE ONE ANOTHER 4:7-10

Dear friends, let us love one another,

- A) because love is from God, and
 - B) everyone who loves has been fathered by God and knows God.
 - B¹⁾ The one who does not love does not know God,
- A¹⁾ because God is love.
- A) By this the love of God is revealed in us:
 - B) that God sent his one and only Son into the world
 - C) in order that we may live through him.
- A¹⁾ In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and
 - B¹⁾ sent his Son
 - C¹⁾ to be the **propitiation** for our sins.

Propitiation in the Old Testament

Examples	Offerings	Festivals
Animal Skins: Genesis 3:21	Burnt Offerings: Leviticus 1; 6:8-13	Passover Leviticus 23:5
Abel's Offering: Genesis 4	Grain Offerings: Leviticus 2; 6:14-23	Unleavened Bread Leviticus 23:6-8
Ark: Genesis 6:18,19	Peace Offerings: Leviticus 3; 7:11-136	Firstfruits Leviticus 23:9-14
Noah's Offering: Genesis 8:20-22	Sin Offerings: Leviticus 4-5:13; 6;24-30	Weeks/Pentecost Leviticus 23:15-21
Abram's Offering: Genesis 15:9-10	Guilt Offerings: Leviticus 5:14-6:7; 7:1-10	Trumpets Leviticus 23:23-25
Circumcision: Genesis 17:10-11		Day of Atonement Leviticus 16:1-34
Isaac's Sacrifice: Genesis 22:12-14		Tabernacles Leviticus 23:33-36
Passover Lamb: Exodus 12:6-7		
10th Plague: Exodus 12:12		
Jethro's Offering: Exodus 18:11-12		
Moses' Offering: Exodus 24:4-8		
Tabernacle: Exodus 29:36-4		

Propitiation in the New Testament

Gospel of Luke	Book of Romans	Book of Hebrews
<p>Now He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and began praying this in regard to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, crooked, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to raise his eyes toward heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other one; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:9-14, NAS)</p>	<p>But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God's merciful restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished; for the demonstration, that is, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26, NAS)</p>	<p>Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. For clearly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brothers so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (Hebrews 2:14-18, NAS)</p>

SPIRIT'S PRESENCE: RESIDE IN THE SPIRIT	4:11-16
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- a) Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.
- b) No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God **resides** in us and his love is perfected in us.
 - c) By this we know that we **reside** in him and he in us: that he has given us of his Spirit.
 - c) And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.
- b¹) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God **resides** in him and he in God. And we have come to know and have believed the love that God has in us.
- a¹) God is love, and the one who **resides** in love resides in God, and God **resides** in him.