

Beloved: A Study of 1, 2, & 3 John
Lesson Five – Be Discerning
1 John 4:1-6

I. Test the Spirits (1 John 4:1-3)

Jesus Christ is God – King of kings and Lord of Lords

Paul describes three exchanges for truth in Romans 1:

First is the exchange of the Creator for the creature, or the exchange of God worship for idol worship. – Romans 1:22-23

Second is the exchange of truth for lies. – Romans 1:24-25

Third comes the exchange of natural sexuality (heterosexuality) for dishonorable passions (homosexuality). – Romans 1:26-28

“A world that grows in its homosexuality and gender confusion is a world judged by God, given over to sin (Romans 1:24), and increasingly barren and corrupt” (Rosaria Butterfield, p. 10-12).

Isaiah 45:18

II. Children of God

“By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother” (1 John 3:10).

Children of God

Speak from God
Spirit of Truth
Practices Righteousness
Loves His Brother
Confesses the Son
Confident
Know the True God

Children of the Devil

Speak from the World
Spirit of Error
Does Not Practice Righteousness
Does Not Love His Brother
Denies the Son
Shrinks Away
Worship Idols

III. Greater is He that is in you (1 John 4:4-6)

We have overcome them (*niikao* – to conquer, to overcome). We have total and abiding victory through Christ.

We are at war!

Lindsey shares,

One of the ways I guard my mind is by infiltrating it with truth. Any time I am doing a mindless activity, I listen to a podcast or sermon. I want to guard my mind and keep it focused on truth. Our minds are prone to wander. It can be falling into discontentment or jealousy. These “little sins” grow and can become a stronghold if left undealt with.

She suggests a “soulonoscscopy” – let the Word reveal every polyp, every root of sin, and diligently remove them.

If you find the desire is awakened by certain music, movies, or certain places, eliminate them. If it stirs up a sinful desire – do not do it. Mortify the flesh.

The question is: “Where does this lead?” Know your heart. Know what you are tempted by.

Figure out your slippery places – that is not legalism – that is wisdom.

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Recognize the lie.

Reject the lie.

Replace the lie with the truth.

Rejoice.

Resources:

Live Your Truth and Other Lies by Alisa Childers

Five Lies of our Anti-Christian Age by Rosaria Butterfield

“This book offers one simple answer: the world is in chaos, and the church is divided because we have failed to obey God and value his plan for how men and women should live” (Rosaria Butterfield, p. 6).