

Testing the Spirits

4:1 ^a**B**ELOVED, do not believe every ^bspirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because ^cmany false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: ^aevery spirit that ^bconfesses that ^cJesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that ^adoes not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the *spirit* of the ^bantichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and ^cnow it is already in the world. 4 You are from God, ^alittle children, and ^bhave overcome them; because ^cgreater is He who is in you than ^dhe who is in the world. 5 ^aThey are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 ^aWe are from God; ^bhe who knows God listens to us; ^che who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know ^dthe spirit of truth and ^ethe spirit of error.

God Is Love

7 ^aBeloved, let us ^blove one another, for love is from God; and ^ceveryone who loves is ¹^dborn of God and ^eknows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for ^aGod is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested ¹^ain us, that ^bGod has sent His ²only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, ^anot that we ¹loved God, but that ^bHe loved us and sent His Son *to be* ^cthe propitiation for our sins. 11 ^aBeloved, if God so loved us, ^bwe also ought to love one another. 12 ^aNo one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His ^blove is perfected in us. 13 ^aBy this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have beheld and ^abear witness that the Father has ^bsent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. 15 ^aWhoever confesses that ^bJesus is the Son of God, God ^cabides in him, and he in God. 16 And ^awe have come to know and have believed the love which God has ¹^bfor us. ^cGod is love, and the one who ^dabides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, ^alove is perfected with us, that we may have ^bconfidence in ^cthe day of judgment; because ^das He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but ^aperfect love casts out fear, because fear ¹involves punishment, and the one who fears is not ^bperfected in love. 19 ^aWe love, because He first loved us. 20 ^aIf someone says, "I love God," and ^bhates his brother, he is a ^cliar; for ^dthe one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, ¹^ecannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And ^athis commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God ^bshould love his brother also.

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^a 3 John 11

^b Jer. 29:8; 1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Thess. 5:20f.; 2 Thess. 2:2

^c Jer. 14:14; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 2:18

^a 1 Cor. 12:3

^b 1 John 2:23

^c John 1:14; 1 John 1:2

^a 1 John 2:22; 2 John 7

^b 1 John 2:18, 22

^c 2 Thess. 2:3-7; 1 John 2:18

^a 1 John 2:1
^b 1 John 2:13
^c Rom. 8:31; 1 John 3:20
^d John 12:31
^a John 15:19; 17:14, 16
^a John 8:23; 1 John 4:4
^b John 8:47; 10:3ff.; 18:37
^c 1 Cor. 14:37
^d John 14:17
^e 1 Tim. 4:1
^a 1 John 2:7
^b 1 John 3:11
^c 1 John 5:1
¹ Or, *begotten*
^d 1 John 2:29
^e 1 Cor. 8:3; 1 John 2:3
^a 1 John 4:7, 16
¹ Or, *in our case*
^a John 9:3; 1 John 4:16
^b John 3:16f.; 1 John 4:10; 5:11
² Or, *unique*, only one of His kind
^a Rom. 5:8, 10; 1 John 4:19
¹ Some mss. read *had loved*
^b John 3:16f.; 1 John 4:9; 5:11
^c 1 John 2:2
^a 1 John 2:7
^b 1 John 4:7
^a John 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 4:20
^b 1 John 2:5; 4:17f.
^a Rom. 8:9; 1 John 3:24
^a John 15:27; 1 John 1:2
^b John 3:17; 4:42; 1 John 2:2
^a 1 John 2:23
^b Rom. 10:9; 1 John 3:23; 4:2; 5:1, 5
^c 1 John 2:24; 3:24
^a John 6:69
¹ Lit., *in*
^b John 9:3; 1 John 4:9
^c 1 John 4:7, 8
^d 1 John 4:12f.
^a 1 John 2:5; 4:12
^b 1 John 2:28
^c Matt. 10:15
^d John 17:22; 1 John 2:6; 3:1, 7, 16
^a Rom. 8:15

¹ Lit., *has*

^b 1 John 4:12

^a 1 John 4:10

^a 1 John 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4

^b 1 John 2:9, 11

^c 1 John 1:6

^d 1 John 3:17

¹ Some mss. read *how can he love God...seen?*

^e 1 Pet. 1:8; 1 John 4:12

^a Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:43f.; 22:37ff.; John 13:34

^b 1 John 3:11

ⁱ*The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.