

# CMBC Bible Study



## CMBC Bible Study 1 John 4:1-21 – Part 2

*1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love him, because he first loved us. 20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

### **The mark of the believers: Let us Love one another!**

Reminder from part 1:

We learned how John was concerned with a danger that the church was facing: the spirit of antichrist, operating in those he classifies as false prophets, scattered throughout the world, and seeking to mislead the believers with their deceptive messages.

John warns the saints:

- 1) Spiritual claims are not all what they claim to be, we need not believe every claim made in the name of God;
- 2) To avoid falling into these traps and lies, we must know how to validate the claims (i.e. try the spirits) to ensure that they are coming from God;
- 3) Prophetic lies are not “true confessions”: they are worldly, and they deny who Jesus is;
- 4) We need to know and act who we are: the redeemed children born of God, we have overcome (=no need to run after every enticing glitter), because the Spirit that is in us is greater (able to keep us from falling into errors?);
- 5) The teachings and doctrines left us in the bible by John and the apostles, the eyewitnesses of Christ, are our only sufficient standard by which we’d try the spirits to distinguish the spirit of truth from the spirit of error;
- 6) The commandment from the Lord to “love one another” is the pillar of truth.

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**John continues by offering the church the building blocks for walking in “newness of life”:**

1. V11-14 John argues that the nature of God’s love ought to motivate us to mutual love among believers. How does John describe this trait in God’s love (i.e. how God demonstrated his love towards us), and what makes it so defining?

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2. Why is love so vital to our relationship with each other, and to the testimony of the church?

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3. Why does John make reference to no man having seen God at any time? And why does John offer God’s indwelling presence as the “perfecter” of his love in us?

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4. In what other ways has God revealed himself to mankind? According to John, what makes the latter form uniquely significant?

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5. V15-16 John reaffirms that he along with the other apostles are trustworthy eyewitnesses of Jesus (V14). How does this affirmation impact John’s statements in these 2 verses? What is John’s expectation from the church in response?

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6. According to John, what is the determining characteristic of the Christian?

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7. When John says that God is love, what is it that he wants his readers to understand?

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8. V17-18 Explain what John means concerning the effect of the perfected love of God in us

“Perfect love” gives us boldness in the day of judgment

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9. “Perfect love” casts out fear

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10. V19-21 Why does John put our love for one another at the heart of Christianity?

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11. According to John, a Christian is a false one and a liar if he claims to love God, while refusing to have anything to do with fellow Christians whom we see everyday (i.e. hateth his brother). What are the lessons here for our church?

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