

Sermon Discussion - 5 March 2023

Read 1 John 4:1-6 together.

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

Have you ever purchased something without first testing it or trying it out and regretted it? See if you can think of a time this happened to you and talk about it. But, everyone in your group has to promise they will laugh with you...not at you!

Observation *Discovering the context*

- Has anyone in your group ever been involved with a religious cult organization? Do you know someone who was? If so, what made the cult organization so appealing and why did it seem so harmless at first?
- In general, why do you think cult religious groups attract so many people who, for the most part, are normal, intelligent, reasonable people?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. Why are we so quick to forget that we are constantly in a spiritual war?
2. Why is the question “Who is Jesus?” at the heart of Christianity? How does this question help us wade through religion in a pluralistic society?
3. What are some characteristics of a false teacher (see 2 Timothy 4:3; 1 Kings 22:5–23)? What will a false teacher aim to do, and how does love of the world (living for what is here in this life, versus living for God) tie into this? Where will a false teacher entice others to put their hope?
4. How does the church in Berea handle Paul’s teaching (Acts 17:11)? What does this teach us about the authority of God’s Word? What does it mean that God’s Word is our final authority? In our culture, what competes against God’s Word as final authority?
5. Why must we be so vigilant (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:14–15a; Jeremiah 17:9)?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?
- Try memorising 1 John 4:4.
“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?