

The Life of Fellowship

Studies on 1 John

6. Faith (1)



Leader's notes with answers

Introduction

In our studies of 1st John we have seen three ways we can know if we are really God's children, and these three are interwoven throughout the book, as they are closely linked together. We have looked at obedience and love, and now we will focus on 'faith'.

It is very important what we believe. John warns that we live in the last days and the anti-Christ spirit is in the world. The enemy is at work trying to deceive God's people to turn them away from the truth. If we do, then we cannot know freedom or eternal life. It is essential to know the truth and follow it. John gives us guidelines so that we can distinguish between truth and error.

FALSE TEACHING

- * The reason John wrote this book is so we can have fellowship with the Father and the Son. What is another reason he gives us for writing in 1 John 2:26 and 4:1?
(To warn us about those who will try and deceive us, and tell us to test every spirit to see if it is of God.)
- * What false teachings are we to watch out for? 1 John 2:22, 4:2-3, 5:5, 10
(Those which deny Jesus is the Christ, those that deny he came in the flesh and those that deny he is the Son of God.)
- * If a person has such doctrines what does it indicate? 1 John 2:19, 23, 4:3, 5
(It indicates they do not belong to God's people, they do not have the Father and they are not of God, but are of the world.)
- * What strong words are used to describe those who teach these wrong doctrines? 1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3, 5
(They are described as anti-Christ and having the same spirit as the anti-Christ. Also John calls them liars, who are of the world and have the spirit of error.)



Discuss

What are some of the beliefs people hold in the country where you live?
Discuss.

How to recognize false teaching

Watch for:

1. Has a source of authority apart from the Bible.
2. Denies that we are saved by grace alone.
3. Jesus is lowered to less than God.
4. The group claim they are the only ones saved.

Ask these questions:

1. Where does it originate? - Bible or man
2. Who does it glorify? - God or man
3. Who does the truth centre around? - man or Jesus
4. What does it produce? - fruit of confusion, pride, exclusiveness or love, joy and peace.



How do you act towards a person who always tries to convince you that they are right, even though you know it is contrary to God's Word?
(It is probably wise to avoid argument! We don't have to 'prove' we are right, but use any opportunity there is to explain our beliefs.)

Conclusion

There is a sense of excitement and expectation among many Christians that we are living in the time when Jesus will return to this earth. Jesus warned that as those last days approach many will rise up and seek to draw others away from the truth. This is why it is so important to know the truth, so we can discern between truth and error. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father but by me." Don't let anyone draw you away from him.