

April 23, 2023
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
1 John 4:1-6

“Doctrinal Test #2: Does the Spirit of God Abide in You? – Part 2”

- I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
- II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27 – [Moral; Social; Doctrinal tests]
- III. **Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #2 – 2:28-4:6**
 - A. The Moral Test – 2:28-3:10 – Family Resemblance
 - B. The Social Test – 3:10b-24 – Family Resemblance
 - C. **The Doctrinal Test – 4:1-6 – Family Resemblance**
 - 1. **The Commands to Test (1)**
 - 2. **The Content of the Test (2-6)**
 - a. _____ – Biblical _____ (2-3)

b. _____ – Biblical _____ (2-3)

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. **“Gullible”** is defined as “easily deceived or cheated.” Synonyms include naïve, unsuspecting, credulous, uncritical, and exploitable. Some gullible people believe they are actually purchasing “Rolex” watches for \$10 in Tijuana. Why doesn’t the Apostle John want his readers to be gullible when it comes to spiritual truth claims? What spirit is behind truth claims that are not true? What is at stake if people are deceived?
2. There was a time in American history when the average citizen was discerning. What has happened to make people more gullible and less discerning in modern times? How have education, the news, and social media contributed to people being so easily deceived and cheated?
3. What have you done this past week to be more discerning? What sources do you use when you check truth claims? What lies or half-truths have you believed in the past that you now recognize as falsehoods? How do you check to see if Pastor Paul is accurately teaching God’s truth? (Acts 17:11)
4. What are some **historic lies** (even half-truths) that people believe about **Jesus**? What people or groups still believe those things? List Scripture references that refute those beliefs.
5. What are some **modern lies** (half-truths) that people believe about **Jesus**? List Scripture references that refute those beliefs.
6. **Who is the biblical Jesus?** What are the essential truths about Jesus that the Apostle John summarizes in 1 John 4:2-3? Why is it critical that people believe in the biblical Jesus and not just “a Jesus”? (See John 8:23-24)
7. What are some **false gospels** that people or groups believe? List Scripture references to refute those beliefs.
8. Summarize the **biblical gospel**.
9. What does it mean to “**confess**” the biblical gospel? Is it the same as simply giving mental assent?
10. Are you currently reading any **Systematic Theology** books? If not, please purchase and read “**Biblical Doctrine**,” by MacArthur & Mayhue (1152 pages) or the condensed version, “**Essential Christian Doctrine: A Handbook on Biblical Truth**,” edited by MacArthur down to 544 pages. Study the truth so you can recognize error when it comes.
11. **Memorize 1 John 4:1-6.** Meditate on what these verses tell us about how to grow in discernment. Think through specific things you have been taught by the world that you need to test and reject.

[Words for blanks in outline: *Savior; Jesus; Salvation; Gospel*]