

May 21, 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 6”

- I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
- II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27
- 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. Savior – Biblical Jesus (2-3) – The Person of Jesus Christ
 - b. Salvation – Biblical Gospel (2-3) – The Work of Jesus Christ
 - c. **Scripture – Biblical Authority (4-6)**
 - Why do we compare everything to Scripture? What is so special about the Bible?**
 - Why does it have authority in our lives?**

d. S _____ - Biblical _____ (2, 6)

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. A friend says they are confused as to who Jesus really is and want you to tell them about Him. **How would you describe Jesus to them?** What characteristics / attributes would you include?
2. **A friend asks why you read the Bible so much.** They know there are a lot of other religious writings out there and don't understand why you base everything in your life on a book written so long ago. What would you tell them about the Bible's:
 - Uniqueness
 - Nature
 - Inspiration
 - Infallibility / Inerrancy
 - Sufficiency
 - Authority
3. If you believe the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and authoritative, how is that reflected in your daily **lifestyle** of reading, studying, memorizing, meditating upon, and obeying Scripture? Discuss how you can make more time in your schedule to study and apply God's all-sufficient, authoritative. Consider fasting from all forms of food & media each day until you have spent time in God's Word and prayer.
4. Using **2 Tim. 3:16-17** as a template (teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness), go through each step on how you would use God's Word to overcome specific habitual sins (laziness; gossip; mishandling of money; addictions...)
5. What do you know about the **Holy Spirit**? Who is He? What are His attributes? What is His mission? Why is He called the Spirit of truth? How is He involved in the life of a believer? How do we know when a message is from the Spirit of God or from the spirit of antichrist?
6. The Holy Spirit wants true believers to have **assurance of salvation and heavenly joy**, even when they are persecuted (see Rom. 5:1-5; 8:1ff; 15:13; Luke 10:21; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:22f; 1 Thess. 1:6f; Rom. 14:17; 1 Pet. 1:8-9). What role does truth play in our experience of assurance and joy? Give other biblical examples of believers who stayed true to God no matter what it cost them.
7. What is your current practice to make sure that your thoughts, attitudes, opinions, words, and actions are all directed by truth from the Spirit of God? When working through conflicts with others (family, friends, co-workers), how do you make sure you are led by the Spirit of God and the Word of God?
8. Assurance of salvation and heavenly joy comes from a proper understanding of and response to the Biblical Savior, Biblical Gospel, Biblical Authority, and Biblical Spirit. Think daily about the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Thank God for the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit that give you assurance.
9. List **5 people** you know who believe in a false Jesus or a false gospel. Pray for them daily and seek an opportunity to talk to them about the biblical Jesus and the biblical gospel. Invite them to church.
10. **Memorize 1 John 4:1-6.** Apply these verses and grow in biblical discernment.

[Words for blanks in outline: *Spirit of Truth; Spirit*]