

First John

1 Jn. 4:1-6



Sonship



Fellowship



Fruitfulness

1 Jn. 4:1 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.



I. GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN – LIVING AT HOME IN THE SPHERE WHERE THE FATHER IS LOVED, 1:1-3:24

A. How We Share the Family Life, 1:1-2:29

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3. The Betrayal of that Life, 2:3-11
4. The Beauty of that Life, 2:12-14
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II. GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN – LONGING FOR HOME WHILE IN THE SPHERE WHERE THE FATHER IS LOATHED, 4:1-5:21

A. A serious warning, 4:1-6

1. The wicked spirit, 4:1-4

a. The sobering word, 4:1

(1) The requirement, 4:1a “Beloved, **believe not** every spirit, **but try** the spirits whether they are of God...”



"Credulity means gullibility and some believers fall easy victims to the latest fads in spiritualistic humbuggery."

Robertson, Archibald Thomas. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. 6 vols. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1931. (6:229.)

Original Word: δοκιμάζω

Transliteration: dokimazo

Definition: I put to the test, prove, examine; I distinguish by testing, approve after testing; I am fit.

dokimázō ("to approve by testing") is done to ***demonstrate what is good, i.e. passes the necessary test. (dokimázō) does not focus on disproving something (i.e. to show it is bad).***

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1381.htm>



(2) The reason, 4:1b "...because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

b. The sound wisdom, 4:2-3

(1) What it is to be demanded by way of confession, 4:2


1 Jn. 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

Original Word: γινώσκω

Transliteration: ginóskó

Definition: I am taking in knowledge, come to know, learn; aor: I ascertained, realized.

ginóskō – properly, *to know*, especially through *personal experience* (*first-hand* acquaintance). <http://biblehub.com/greek/1097.htm>



Original Word: ὁμολογέω

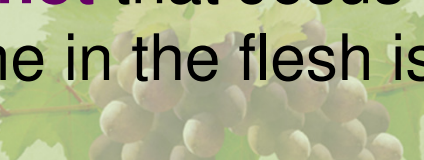
Transliteration: homologeó

Short Definition: I confess, profess, acknowledge, praise

homologéō (from *homouí*, "together" and *légō*, "speak to a conclusion") – properly, *to voice the same conclusion*, i.e. *agree* ("confess"); to profess (confess) because in full agreement; to align with (endorse). <http://biblehub.com/greek/3670.htm>

(2) What will be disclosed by way of confession, 4:3

(a) What the deceiving spirit is not, 4:3a “And every spirit that **confesseth not** that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God...”



Deut. 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,
2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, **whereof he spake unto thee, saying**, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;
3 **Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams**: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.
5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; **because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God**, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

Mt. 7:15 **Beware of false prophets**, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**



Mt. 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his **fruit** good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his **fruit** corrupt: **for the tree is known by his fruit.**

34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That **every idle word that men shall speak**, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For **by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**



(b) Why the deceiving spirit is named, 4:3b-c

i. The spirit of Antichrist has been predicted, 4:3b
“...and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come...”

ii. The spirit of Antichrist is now present, 4:3c
“...and even now already is it in the world.”

c. The spiritual war, 4:4



(1) We are invincible in this struggle,
4:4a “Ye are of God, little
children, and have overcome
them...”


(2) We are indwelled by the Spirit, 4:4b
“...because greater is he that is
in you, than he that is in the
world.”

2. The worldly spirit, 4:5-6a

a. The great divide, 4:5

(1) Those with secular interests, 4:5

1 Jn. 4: 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world,
and the world heareth them.



(2) Those with spiritual interests, 4:6a
“We are of God: he that
knoweth God heareth us; he
that is not of God heareth not
us...”

b. The great disclosure, 4:6b “...Hereby
know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of
error.”



1 Tim. 3:16

New International Version

Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: **He** appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

New American Standard Bible


By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: **He** who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

And most certainly, the mystery of godliness is great: **He** was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

King James Bible

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God** was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.



Rom. 1:16

New International Version

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

New American Standard Bible


For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

King James Bible

For I am not ashamed of the gospel **of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.



Gal. 3:17

New International Version

What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.

New American Standard Bible

What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

And I say this: The law, which came 430 years later, does not revoke a covenant that was previously ratified by God and cancel the promise.

King James Bible

And this I say, *that* the covenant, **that was confirmed before of God in Christ**, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

Gal. 4:7

New International Version

So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

New American Standard Bible

Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

King James Bible

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God **through Christ**.



Eph. 3:9

New International Version

and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

New American Standard Bible

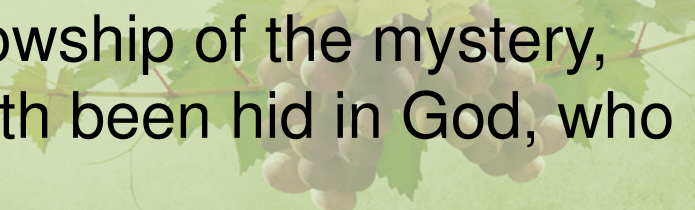
and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

Holman Christian Standard Bible

and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

King James Bible

And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things **by Jesus Christ:**



Phil. 4:13

New International Version

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

New American Standard Bible

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.

King James Bible

I can do all things through **Christ** which strengtheneth me.





Conclusion

1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour**:

9 Whom **resist stedfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, **make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you**.

11 **To him be glory** and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.