

Net Mending Week 9

1 John 4:1-12

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world ⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. ⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Recap: _____ to God's will and _____ for God's children are the litmus tests of the faith.

I. Testing the Spirits

A. Belief Requires Unbelief

1. Believing _____ and rejecting _____
2. Loving _____ and hating _____
3. Accepting _____ and rejecting _____

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

4. Following _____ and fleeing _____

B. The Test of Truth

Matthew 7:15

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves

1. Acknowledgement of the historical _____ of the Son of God
2. Exhibit transformed behavior due to a personal _____ to the confession

II. The Test of True Love

A. What Christian Love Is

1. Christian love is a perfect balance of _____ and _____

Ephesians 4:14-15

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

2. Christian love is _____ in nature, which is contrary to our human nature.

- God's nature is _____

3. Christian love is _____

B. What Christian Love Does

1. Christian love _____

2. Christian love _____

Romans 1:14

I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.

Romans 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

3. Christian love _____