

1 John 4 - Believe Not Every Spirit

June 11, 2015

1 John 4:1-3

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.

WHAT IS THE HERESY JOHN IS ADDRESSING?

Gnosticism:

1. Many Gnostics believed in Docetism that Jesus was a pure spirit with a phantom body and only appeared to be in human form.
2. Some Gnostics believed that Jesus' resurrection occurred at the moment of death or even before. They define resurrection as being the liberation of Jesus' spirit from His body.

WHY IS JESUS COMING IN THE FLESH SO IMPORTANT?

Heresy that attacks the divinity of Christ, the humanity of Christ, the virgin birth, His death and resurrection strike the very heart and substance of Christianity.

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **THE WORD WAS GOD.**"

John 1:14

"AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH."

1 Timothy 3:16

"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."

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

7 **BUT WE SPEAK THE WISDOM OF GOD IN A MYSTERY, EVEN THE HIDDEN WISDOM, WHICH GOD ORDAINED BEFORE THE WORLD UNTO OUR GLORY:**

8 **WHICH NONE OF THE PRINCES OF THIS WORLD KNEW: FOR HAD THEY KNOWN IT, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY.**

1. **The substitutionary sacrifice for our sins had to be sinless - if Jesus wasn't sinless, his personal sin would have disqualified Him to be our Substitute.**

John 1:29

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD.**"

Exodus 12:5

"**YOUR LAMB SHALL BE WITHOUT BLEMISH**, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats."

Deuteronomy 17:1

"Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, **WHEREIN IS BLEMISH, OR ANY EVILFAVOUREDNESS: FOR THAT IS AN ABOMINATION UNTO THE LORD THY GOD.**"

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 **BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT:**

1 John 3:5

"**AND YE KNOW THAT HE WAS MANIFESTED TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS; AND IN HIM IS NO SIN.**"

1 Peter 2:21-22

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 **WHO DID NO SIN**, neither was guile found in his mouth:

2 Corinthians 5:21

"**FOR HE HATH MADE HIM TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.**"

Hebrews 9:13-14

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 **HOW MUCH MORE SHALL THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, WHO THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT SPOT TO GOD, PURGE YOUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD?**

Romans 5:18-19

18 **THEREFORE AS BY THE OFFENCE OF ONE JUDGMENT CAME UPON ALL MEN TO CONDEMNATION; EVEN SO BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF ONE THE FREE GIFT CAME UPON ALL MEN UNTO JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE.**

19 **FOR AS BY ONE MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE MANY WERE MADE SINNERS, SO BY THE OBEDIENCE OF ONE SHALL MANY BE MADE RIGHTEOUS.**

2. The power of sin, death and hell were destroyed by Jesus' resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:17–18

17 **AND IF CHRIST BE NOT RAISED, YOUR FAITH IS VAIN; YE ARE YET IN YOUR SINS.**

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

Revelation 1:18

"I AM HE THAT LIVETH, AND WAS DEAD; AND, BEHOLD, I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE, AMEN; AND HAVE THE KEYS OF HELL AND OF DEATH."

Hebrews 2:14–15

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL;**

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

3. As God in the flesh, Jesus' earthly life and ministry are the perfect example and living demonstration of Truth.

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
2 **HATH IN THESE LAST DAYS SPOKEN UNTO US BY HIS SON,** whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 **WHO BEING THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY, AND THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON,** and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

John 13:14-15

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For **I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU.**

1 Peter 2:21

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, **LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS.**"

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Be ye therefore **FOLLOWERS OF GOD,** as dear children;

2 And **WALK IN LOVE, AS CHRIST ALSO HATH LOVED US,** and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

1 John 2:6

"HE THAT SAITH HE ABIDETH IN HIM OUGHT HIMSELF ALSO SO TO WALK, EVEN AS HE WALKED."