

Sermon Handout

The Spirit of Truth

I John 4:1-6

I. The Apostolic Message: Jesus is God come in Flesh

- a. In John's Gospel Jn 1:1-5, 14,18 *cf.* 20:30-31
- b. In John's first letter
 - i. We have seen, heard, handled & declared 1:1-3
 - ii. We have seen & testify 4:14-15
- c. John's instructions rest on this fact 2:13, 14, 24-25
 - i. Jesus is "from the beginning" I Jn 1:1; Jn 1:1
 - ii. This has been our message "from the beginning" 2:24

II. The Danger that Threatens the Faith (antichrist)

- a. The term "antichrist" I Jn 2:18, 22; 4:3; II Jn 7 (**only**)
 - i. Defined in I Jn 2:22, 4:3; II Jn 7
 - ii. Not related to II Thess 2; Daniel 9; Rev 13 *et al.*
 - iii. Antichrist prophets active in John's time v. 3b
- b. Adherence to Apostolic teaching is the test of truth v. 6 *cf.* Dt 13:1-4
 - i. "We" & "us" refers to the Apostles v. 6 *cf.* 1:1-4; 4:14
 - ii. Antichrist teaching contrary to Apostolic teaching vv. 5-6
 - iii. John calls believers to abide in Apostolic teaching 2:21-25
- c. Overcoming falsehood vv. 3-5
 - i. False prophetic teaching concerning Jesus v. 3
 - ii. God will enable you to come down on the side of truth v. 4
 - iii. The liars speak for and to the fallen world v. 5
 - iv. The Apostles' teaching cleaves truth from error v. 6

III. The Love Connection v. 7ff, 3:23-24

- a. Love/Ten Words: John, Peter, Paul, Moses, Jesus himself
- b. The Two Tables in 3:23-24 *cf.* 4:15; *see* Mt 22:36-40; 5:19; 7:12
- c. The New/Old commandment 2:7-11
- d. Ten Commandments inseparable from faith in Jesus 4:12-16, 20-21
- e. Confession of Jesus is essential to true faith 4:15 *cf.* Rom 10:8-11