

Brittle Beliefs

Unexamined Beliefs (the value of skepticism)

January 28, 2018 / Dan Solofra

¹ 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. **1 John 4:1, NIV**

¹ "**Do not judge**, or you too will be judged. **Matthew 7:1, NIV**

We are not to _____: to pronounce a sentence.

But we are to _____: to compare and challenge.

Why do false teachers appeal to me?

² This is how you can recognize the *Spirit of God*: Every *spirit* that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **1 John 4:2, NIV**

A true message from God will _____ on _____ and all that he accomplished in his life.

³ but 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. **1 John 4:3, NIV**

The antichrist message offers something _____ or _____ Jesus.

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. **Galatians 1:6-7, NIV**

Jesus + _____ from me = heaven = message from God

Jesus + _____ from me = possibly heaven = antichrist

When _____ is lost, all is lost.

⁴ You, 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**. **1 John 4:4, NIV**

³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. **Matthew 24:35, NIV**

God's promise to you: _____ is with you in your fight for the truth.

⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the **viewpoint** of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We 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**. **1 John 4:5-6, NIV**

Each person needs to understand his/her _____.

Christian worldview:

Identity: I am a child of God bought with the blood of Jesus.

Destiny: I am going to heaven because of Jesus.

Purpose: I live to serve God and share his promises.

Possibility: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Community: I am part of a family of believers.

Testing my beliefs allows me to live _____ knowing I can trust the promises of God.

MEMORY VERSE

² This is how you can recognize the *Spirit of God*: Every *spirit* that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **1 John 4:2, NIV**

My next step: I will test all the teachings I hear using God's Word as the authority and source of truth. I will rest in Jesus and his promises.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

Impact Groups – Brittle Beliefs The Value of Skepticism

Welcome to groups!

Just a reminder groups are a place where:

1. We grow deeper in our relationships with Christ.
2. We guard and protect confidentiality – no gossip!
3. We don't try to fix one another, just love each other.
4. We give space for everyone to talk (2 minute max)
5. God's Word is the final authority.

Impact Groups – what makes them different?

Groups will promote and encourage these five activities of God's Church: Fellowship, Discipleship, Worship, Service and Outreach.

Fellowship - Breaking the Ice

Break into groups of 2. Try to partner with someone you don't know. Talk for about 4 minutes each - getting each other's name and the most eventful thing that happened in the last two months.

After 8 minutes the group comes back together. Introduce your partner and share the eventful thing that happened to them.

Discipleship – Hearing and doing God's Word

Read 1 John 4:1 and Matthew 7:1.

How are testing and judging similar, yet, different?

Your friend Jim says he tries to treat others like he wants to be treated. He thinks he is a good person and expects to go to heaven because he has always gone to church.

Does God's Word teach what Jim believes?
(see Ephesians 2:8-9)

What would you say to Jim to point him to Jesus?

On Sunday we talked about one's worldview. What is a worldview?

A Christian worldview affects identity, destiny, purpose, possibility and community. (see Sunday's notes) Which of these do you find most comforting/exciting as you consider the Christian worldview.

Worship: On Sunday we dedicated the land for our future church building. What did you enjoy about the event?

How does thinking of this building as a landmark, lighthouse and launch pad describe the work we hope to do in it one day?

Service:

Read Ephesians 2:10

This verse says that you were created to do good works. What is your favorite type of work to do? What is a way you can use it to serve God?

Outreach:

Read Acts 1:1-8

Why are these words exciting and scary at the same time?

This winter and spring our impact groups will make a concerted effort to not only equip you for outreach, but to consider ways we can to reach out with the good news of Jesus together.

Close with Prayer:

If there is time:

What are 3 things that you would like to see in the next 12 weeks that would make your group a "success"?