

Who's the greatest of them all?

True Vine and the branches

True Vine and the branches

- Jesus spends much time explaining who He is and how He differs from everyone else

True Vine and the branches

- Jesus spends much time explaining who He is and how He differs from everyone else
- There is one True Vine and others which are not Him

True Vine and the branches

- Jesus spends much time explaining who He is and how He differs from everyone else
- There is one True Vine and others which are not Him
- We must choose to let Him be who He says He is in our lives in order for us to be branches of the True Vine

1 John 4

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."

Rocks our world a bit, huh...

Rocks our world a bit, huh...

- Not every spirit that makes you think it is holy, is holy

Rocks our world a bit, huh...

- Not every spirit that makes you think it is holy, is holy
– If it isn't holy, then what is it?

Rocks our world a bit, huh...

- Not every spirit that makes you think it is holy, is holy
 - If it isn't holy, then what is it?
- There are evil spirits in this world

Rocks our world a bit, huh...

- Not every spirit that makes you think it is holy, is holy
 - If it isn't holy, then what is it?
- There are evil spirits in this world
- There are evil spirits in this world that will appear to be holy and righteous

Rocks our world a bit, huh...

- Not every spirit that makes you think it is holy, is holy
 - If it isn't holy, then what is it?
- There are evil spirits in this world
- There are evil spirits in this world that will appear to be holy and righteous
 - They existed in Jesus' day and they still do

Rocks our world a bit, huh...

- Not every spirit that makes you think it is holy, is holy
 - If it isn't holy, then what is it?
- There are evil spirits in this world
- There are evil spirits in this world that will appear to be holy and righteous
 - They existed in Jesus' day and they still do
 - The fact that they come does not indicate you are doing anything wrong

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we recognize truth?

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we recognize truth?
 - Truth points to the need of mankind to be forgiven of sins (Incarnation)

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we recognize truth?
 - Truth points to the need of mankind to be forgiven of sins (Incarnation)
 - Truth points to the inability of mankind to meet this need him/herself (Crucifixion)

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we recognize truth?
 - Truth points to the need of mankind to be forgiven of sins (Incarnation)
 - Truth points to the inability of mankind to meet this need him/herself (Crucifixion)
 - Truth points to the restoration of the relationship available through the Sacrifice (Salvation)

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we recognize truth?
 - Truth points to the need of mankind to be forgiven of sins (Incarnation)
 - Truth points to the inability of mankind to meet this need him/herself (Crucifixion)
 - Truth points to the restoration of the relationship available through the Sacrifice (Salvation)
 - Truth points to the ability of the Holy Spirit to grow us in that relationship until we leave this world and enter eternity (Redemption)

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we distinguish truth from lies?

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we distinguish truth from lies?
 - Lies point to the work of humanity rather than the Work of God

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we distinguish truth from lies?
 - Lies point to the work of humanity rather than the Work of God
 - Lies point to the human side of the relationship and make it the "powerful" component

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we distinguish truth from lies?
 - Lies point to the work of humanity rather than the Work of God
 - Lies point to the human side of the relationship and make it the "powerful" component
 - Lies point to the relationship and place human "rights" at center rather than Divine righteousness

Test the spirits...

- We are told here quite clearly that we must humble ourselves and seek truth
- How do we distinguish truth from lies?
 - Lies point to the work of humanity rather than the Work of God
 - Lies point to the human side of the relationship and make it the "powerful" component
 - Lies point to the relationship and place human "rights" at center rather than Divine righteousness
 - Lies point to the ability of mankind to determine parameters that only God can establish

1 John 4

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them (lies), because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

We overcome lies because...

- The Holy Spirit resides in us if we believe in Jesus Christ

We overcome lies because...

- The Holy Spirit resides in us if we believe in Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit is greater than Satan or any of his evil spirits

We overcome lies because...

- The Holy Spirit resides in us if we believe in Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit is greater than Satan or any of his evil spirits
 - We overcome because of the power of the Holy Spirit in us, not because of our own strength, might, wisdom, etc.

We overcome lies because...

- The Holy Spirit resides in us if we believe in Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit is greater than Satan or any of his evil spirits
 - We overcome because of the power of the Holy Spirit in us, not because of our own strength, might, wisdom, etc.
 - There is never, ever a question of power

We overcome lies because...

- The Holy Spirit resides in us if we believe in Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit is greater than Satan or any of his evil spirits
 - We overcome because of the power of the Holy Spirit in us, not because of our own strength, might, wisdom, etc.
 - There is never, ever a question of power
 - There is only a question of surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives

The world embraces the lies

- Lies about how life is to be led by believers of Jesus will be popular

The world embraces the lies

- Lies about how life is to be led by believers of Jesus will be popular
 - We will be expected to live as world does

The world embraces the lies

- Lies about how life is to be led by believers of Jesus will be popular
 - We will be expected to live as world does
- Lies about how consequences for living life as a believer of Jesus will be accepted and embraced

The world embraces the lies

- Lies about how life is to be led by believers of Jesus will be popular
 - We will be expected to live as world does
- Lies about how consequences for living life as a believer of Jesus will be accepted and embraced
 - The world will think that following Jesus diminishes our intellect, potential, future

The world embraces the lies

- Lies about how life is to be led by believers of Jesus will be popular
 - We will be expected to live as world does
- Lies about how consequences for living life as a believer of Jesus will be accepted and embraced
 - The world will think that following Jesus diminishes our intellect, potential, future
- The lies will be perceived as truth by the world and they won't hear us speaking the Truth of Jesus Christ

But we are of God...

- And we hear differently

But we are of God...

- And we hear differently
- And we see differently

But we are of God...

- And we hear differently
- And we see differently
- And we think differently

But we are of God...

- And we hear differently
- And we see differently
- And we think differently
- And we act differently

But we are of God...

- And we hear differently
- And we see differently
- And we think differently
- And we act differently
- And we cannot be anything other than humble about our differences

But we are of God...

- And we hear differently
- And we see differently
- And we think differently
- And we act differently
- And we cannot be anything other than humble about our differences
 - Grateful that we love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:10)

But we are of God...

- And we hear differently
- And we see differently
- And we think differently
- And we act differently
- And we cannot be anything other than humble about our differences
 - Grateful that we love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:10)
 - Prayerful and broken for those who have not yet received that love

And those who are of God...

- Hear us

And those who are of God...

- Hear us
- Understand or try to understand us

And those who are of God...

- Hear us
- Understand or try to understand us
- Support us

And those who are of God...

- Hear us
- Understand or try to understand us
- Support us
- Recognize the Truth

Take this promise to the bank...

- Through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in us, we can:

Take this promise to the bank...

- Through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in us, we can:
 - Intimately know what is Truth

Take this promise to the bank...

- Through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in us, we can:
 - Intimately know what is Truth
 - Intimately know what is error or will lead us down the wrong path

Take this promise to the bank...

- Through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in us, we can:
 - Intimately know what is Truth
 - Intimately know what is error or will lead us down the wrong path
- We must humbly seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit into a life of Truth

In other words...

We live our lives as
branches of the True Vine