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Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School

Back to the Basics: A Study of I John - Part XII

Watch Your Step!

I John 4:1-6

- I. **Because False Teaching is Powerful, You Must Obey the Command to Live with Discernment (v. 1a).**

True faith is not indiscriminate. It studies its object. When faced with a new doctrine or teaching, John's command is to examine it with concentrated effort, and see if it's true or not.

- II. **Because False Teaching is Powerful, You Must Know the Reason Why You Should Live with Discernment (v. 1b).**

"Satan does not merely oppose the church; he wants to deceive her. In keeping with his fraudulent schemes, his minions have infiltrated denominations, churches, and other Christian schools, institutions, and organizations, resulting in compromise and error." - J. MacArthur

- III. **Because False Teaching is Powerful, You Must Follow the Steps to Living with Discernment (vv. 2-6).**

John begins to get real practical. How do you know if this is a false teacher or not?

- A. **Make sure that those you align with accept who Jesus is (vv. 2-3).**

"No system can be tolerated, however loud its claims or learned its adherents, which denies that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh." - J. Stott

- B. **Make sure that those you align with live as Christians live (v 4).**

Christians live in victory! They have resisted the temptation to false doctrine, and they are secured by the one who indwells them.

- C. **Make sure that those you align with identify with God's message (vv. 5-6).**

People who know God follow the teachings of God and His Divinely inspired messengers (in this case, John).