

ANALYSIS:

1. Why are believers to try [prove] the spirits [the spiritual powers which energize teachers]? _____

2. What truth concerning Christ is an essential test of the spirit empowering a teacher? _____

3. What other evidence [than vs 2-3] also tests if a spirit is of God or not?

4. Why does John define love, as God's care for man, rather than man's care for God? _____
5. How can a person show himself to be a liar? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Real love is to be seen only in God's sacrificing care for us. In love He sent His only begotten Son to become the propitiation for our sins. Do you see the resounding paradox in verse ten? God's love is coupled with His wrath. Propitiation is required to satisfy God's just wrath against us sinners. In sinning, we rebelled against and transgressed God's law. We desperately needed Someone to pay our debt. Jesus took our sins to free us from condemnation and satisfy Divine Justice. Truly in God sending His Son to be the propitiation for our sins do we see love defined and magnified. Loved by such a God, our sins paid for by His Son, we escape His wrath forever!

"Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!" Let us worship and obey our Lord Jesus and our glorious Father right now for such wondrous love as this.

HELP:

1. Because many false prophets are gone out into the world (v 1).
2. Do they confess that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh [That is, are they right about the Incarnation and the person and work of Christ in our salvation]? (vs 2-3).
3. If the teacher speaks of the world and the world hears them it proves they are not of God (v 5); the person who hears and loves apostolic doctrine proves he is of God (v 6).
4. Because God, in His love toward us, sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (v 10).
5. By saying, "I love God," and at the same time hating his brother (v 20).