

TEST THE PROPHETS LOVE THE BELIEVERS

Introduction: The negative responsibility of a believer is to test the spirits; the positive one is to live by love.

Lesson Aim: Know how to test the spirits and know the benefits of living by love.

Memory Verse: “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God” (1 Jn 4:7).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:

I. Pure Fellowship Maintained – 4:1-6

A. Command to Test the Spirits – 4:1

1. What do you think the spirits are?

B. Criteria for Testing the Spirits – 4:2-3

2. How can you know the Spirit of God? 4:2

3. What is the spirit of antichrist? 4:3

C. Cross-check in Testing the Spirits – 4:4-6

4. Name three things that are true of believers. They o_____ antichrists; the S_____ in them

is greater than he that is in the world (4:4); those that k_____ God hear them (4:6).

5. Name three things that reveal unbelievers. They s_____ of the world; the w_____ hears them (4:5); they do not h_____ the message of the believers (4:6)

6. How then can we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error? 4:6

II. Mature Fellowship Attained – 4:7-21

A. Source of Mature Fellowship – 4:7-10

7. Name at least three things you should know about love. 4:7-8

8. Give two reasons why God sent His Son into the world? 4:9-10

B. Course of Mature Fellowship – 4:11-21

1. A Believer’s Love Portrays God to Others – 4:11-12

9. Since God loved us, what should we do? 4:11

10. How can we say no man has seen God, yet is seen in believers? 4:12; see Ex 24:9-11; Isa 6:1; 1 Jn 1:1-2; 5:20

11. Name two things that happen when believers love one another. 4:12

2. A Believer’s Love Proves God Dwells in Him – 4:13-16

12. How do we know that God dwells in believers and believers dwell in God? 4:13

4:14-15

4:16

3. A Believer’s Love Perfects God’s Love in Him – 4:17-21

13. How can our love be made perfect? 4:17

14. What will perfect love do? 4:18

15. What makes a person a liar? 4:19-20

16. What is God’s commandment for believers? 4:21