

7 Ways To Determine If You Are A Believer

Part Three

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I. Review:

1Jn 1:8 - 2:25 - has seven tests that shows who are the real Christian.

1. **Repentance Test:** Willingness to confess sin (1:8 -2:2)
2. **Moral Test:** Obedience (2:3-6)
3. **Social Test:** Loving fellow Christians (2:7-11)
4. **Growth Test:** Victory over the evil one (2:12-14)
5. **World Test:** Forsaking the world (2:15-17)
6. **Perseverance Test:** Fellowship, connectedness within a church (2:18-19)
7. **Doctrinal Test:** What we believe (2:20-27)

We have covered five of these tests

II. The last tests:

6. Perseverance Test: (2:18-19)

1Jn 2:18-19 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

A. "the last hour"

1. This phrase and similar phrases like "the last days" refer to the period of time from Jesus' birth in Bethlehem to the Second Coming. The kingdom has come, but is not yet fully consummated.
2. This is a period of choice and decision between:
God and the world; Christ and Satan; light and darkness.
3. The people of the OT believed in two ages, the current evil age and the age of righteousness ushered in by the Spirit, which was still future. What the OT did not clearly reveal was the two comings of the Messiah, the first as Savior and the second as Consummator. These two ages overlap.
4. It is a time when the 'antichrist' will appear (see below).
5. Time ("hour" = kairos) there are two Greek words for time; how John uses them:

chronos = time as "a clock"

Jn 5:6 he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him...

Jn 7:33 Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me.

Jn 12:35 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you ...

Jn 14:9 "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?"

Rev 2:21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality

Rev 6:11 and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer,

Rev 10:6 ... that there will be delay no longer,

Rev 20:3 ... so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, ...

kairos = now time, "like a woman in labor"

Jn 5:4 for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool ...

Jn 7:6 So Jesus said to them, "My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune.
 Jn 7:8 ... I do not go up to this feast because My time has not yet fully come."
 Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads,... hears ... and heed the things ... for the time is near.
 Rev 11:18 ...the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward ...
 Rev 12:12 ... the devil has come ... having great wrath, ... he has only a short time."
 Rev 12:14 ... she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the serpent.
 Rev 22:10 ..., "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

B. "the antichrist"

1. **Only John** uses this term "antichrist" (1Jn 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2Jn 7).

2. **Notice:** John uses this term both in the singular (the person of) and in the plural (the spirit of).
 1Jn 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

2Jn 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

3. **There are references to the same end-time person in other biblical writers:**

Daniel (Dan 7:7-26; 9:24-27; Jesus (Mk 13:14-23; Mt 24:15-28; John (Rev 13); Paul (2Thes 2).

4. **John makes a distinction between the antichrist person and the spirit of antichrist.**

This spirit of antichrist is always present in the world. (Mk 13:6, 22; Mt 24:5, 24)

1Jn 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist (*person*) is coming, even now many antichrists (*spirit*) have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1Jn 2:22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist (*person & spirit*), the one who denies the Father and the Son.

1Jn 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2Jn 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist (*person & spirit*).

5. **Historical examples of antichrists:**

- a) Antiochus IV Epiphanes (little horn of Dan 8; 11:36-45)
- b) Nero and Domitian (claimed deity but not Messiahship)
- c) Atheistic Communism
- d) Secular Humanism

6. **John says that 'many antichrists' have appeared already.**

He means the false teachers.

They have tampered with the truth about Jesus, made extra rules about Christian behavior and have split the church from following apostolic authority.

Examples:

They may not be against Christ (Mk 13:6, 22; Mt 24:5, 24)

They may be false messiahs, claiming to be the Christ.

The person of the antichrist (Dan 7:8; 9:23-26, 24-27; 2Thes 2:3; Rev. 13)

Or modern cult leaders.

7. **John warned** about the coming "antichrist" and those who would precede him (1Jn 2:18; 4:1-6).

These antichrists are apostate religious teachers who deny Christ (1Jn 2:22-23), thus proving that they never knew him (1Jn 2:19).

8. The antichrist

He is a world leader who opposes the purpose of God and seduces people to follow him. (Dan 7:7-26; 9:24-27; Mk 13:14-23; Mt 24:15-28; 2Thes 2; 1Jn 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2Jn 7; Rev 13)

Summary:

Christians in every age will experience both false teachers (who deny Christ) and false messiahs (who claim to be Christ). A day will come when the person of "antichrist will arise and deceive the world to follow him!

C. They went out from us, (2:19)

Some people have left the church - they were not really of us

If they had been of us:

they would have remained with us;
they went out (because) they are not of us.

Their departure is proof that they weren't united in the truth and love of Christ. Jesus warned his disciples that there would be such lies and betrayals in the last days (Mk 13:5, 12).

Their claims:

- a) that they know more about God than everyone else,
- b) that they are already living as his perfect children.

7. Doctrinal Test: What we believe (2:20-27)

1 Jn 2:20-27 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. 27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

The anointing - is the Holy Spirit

1 Jn 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

1 Jn 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, ...

The Holy Spirit, who "anoints" or resides in the believer; He teaches us all spiritual truth, allowing us to distinguish between the false and the true (1Jn 2:20-21; Jn 16:13).

"You don't need anyone to teach you" (1Jn 2:27) needs to be interpreted in light of passages such as Eph 4:11-13, which shows clearly that the Holy Spirit uses human agents to teach us.

The Holy Spirit's work (anointing) in teaching the believer:

1. **He communicates with us** (Phil 2:1; Rev 2:7; 14:13; Rev 22:17).
2. **He bears witness** (Rom 8:16; 1Jn 3:24; 5:6-8).
3. **He gives revelation** (1Cor 2:10; Eph 3:5)
4. **He gives access to God's presence** (Eph 2:18; Rev 1:10; 4:2; Ezek 43:5).
5. **He gives instruction** (Neh 9:20; Isa 7:2).
6. **He admonishes us** (Neh 9:30).

7. **He leads and guides us** (Ps 143:10; Mt 4:1; 10:20; 1Cor 2:13; Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18).
8. **He gives counsel** (Isa 11:2).
9. **He gives knowledge** (Isa 11:2; 1Cor 2:10).
10. **He gives wisdom, for He is the Spirit of wisdom** (Dt 34:9; Isa 11:2; Ac 6:10).
11. **He gives us truth, for He is the Spirit of truth** (Jn 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1Jn 5:7).
12. **He dwells in us** (1Cor 3:16; Eph 2:22; 5:18; 1Jn 4:13).
13. **The Spirit is our Helper** (Jn 15:26; 14:16-17).

You know the truth

You have an anointing - and you know the truth.

No lie is of the truth; - Who is the liar ?

The one who denies that Jesus is the Christ

This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

“Abides” in you”

Definition:

“to abide, to remain, to sojourn, tarry.” (from Thayer)

The word refers to a connection, more than merely to a position. It is used very often of persons abiding in a home, which implies more than mere position, but rather fellowship, communion, dependence, harmony, friendship. To abide in the Lord Jesus therefore implies not only position, but relationship. It implies fellowship, friendship, dependence, harmony and communion. (from Wuest's Word Studies)

Three Greek words which give us the three aspects of a believer's life.

1) The verb of being (eimi), refers to the saint's position in Christ.

He has been placed into vital union with Him by the Holy Spirit, placing him in Christ. The saint's position in Christ, makes possible his Christian manner of life.

2) The word (menō), refers to the saint's fellowship with and dependence upon Him, communion, closeness of communication.

The saint's fellowship with and dependence upon the Lord Jesus, conditions that manner of life, makes it what it should be.

3) The word (peripateō) “to order one's behavior, to conduct one's self,” (literally means “to walk around”) speaks of the saint's manner of life.

Since the way a person walks is often evidence as to the kind of person he is; the word not only referred to the physical act of walking, but came to have the idea of the manner of life of the person

How it (menō) is used:

It is used 120 times in the New Testament; 67 times by John in his writings.

to abide, abides, abiding (41 times); to remain, remains, remained (12X); to stay, stayed, staying (9X) remained, remaining (2X); to endure (1X); to be in (1X); lives (1X)

Abide = Jesus is the Vine, we are the branches (Jn 15:1-10)

Jn 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you

Jn 15:4 ... As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine,

Jn 15:4 ... so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

Jn 15:5 ... he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, ...

Jn 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; ...

Jn 15:7 "If you abide in Me,

Jn 15:7 ... and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Jn 15:9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

Jn 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love;

Jn 15:10 ... just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

How (menō; abide) is used in 1Jn

1Jn 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought to walk as He walked
1Jn 2:10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light
1Jn 2:14 ... young men, ... and the word of God abides in you, ...
1Jn 2:17 ... the one who does the will of God lives forever.
1Jn 2:19 ... if they had been of us, they would have remained with us;
1Jn 2:24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning.
1Jn 2:24 ... If what you heard from the beginning abides in you,
1Jn 2:24 ... you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
1Jn 2:27 ... the anointing which you received from Him abides in you,
1Jn 2:27 ... and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.
1Jn 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, ...
1Jn 3:6 ... No one who abides in Him sins;
1Jn 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; ...
1Jn 3:14 ... He who does not love abides in death.
1Jn 3:15 ... and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
1Jn 3:17 ... and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?
1 Jn 3:24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, ...
1 Jn 3:24 ... We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
1Jn 4:12 ...if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.
1Jn 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because ... of His Spirit.
1Jn 4:15 ... confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
1Jn 4:16 ... God is love, and the one who abides in love
1Jn 4:16 ... abides in God,
1Jn 4:16 ... and God abides in him

Balance:

The doctrine of the Security of the Believer must be inseparably linked to the doctrine of Perseverance. It is not an either or option, but it is both; a biblical reality. In reality “abiding” is a biblical warning! Most modern evangelicals stress the need for a personal decision for Christ, and this is surely true. However, the Bible’s emphasis is not on decisions, but on discipleship (Mt 28:19-20).

The following references were used in this study

I John Study Guide (by R. J. Utley)
With the Word Bible Commentary (by Wiersby)
Willmington’s Bible handbook
Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words
The Bible Guide, by A. Knowles
Dictionary of Bible Themes