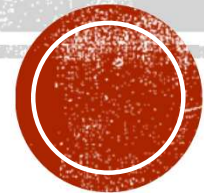


SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT



INTRODUCTION

- Spiritual discernment refers to the ability to recognize truth from error.
- Because there are so many differing beliefs and opinions in the world today – the need to understand what is true and what is false becomes vitally important.



GOD WARNS AGAINST FALSE TEACHING

- **2 Cor. 11:13-15** – There are many false teachers in the world, but it shouldn't surprise us since Satan is able to appear as an angel of light.
- **1 John 4:1** – We must test teachers to determine if they are speaking the truth.
- We should not believe everything we hear just because it sounds good and right.



GOD WARNS AGAINST FALSE TEACHING

- **2 Corinthians 11:13** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.
- **2 Corinthians 11:14** And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
- **2 Corinthians 11:15** So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.



GOD WARNS AGAINST FALSE TEACHING

- **1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.



HOW DO WE DETERMINE WHAT IS TRUE?

- **John 17:17** – Truth begin with God's Word – it is truth.
- **Hebrews 4:12** – God's word is the standard which tells us what is right and what is wrong.



HOW DO WE DETERMINE WHAT IS TRUE?

- **John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; **your word is truth.**
- **Hebrews 4:12** For **the word of God is living and active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and **discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT?

- **Ephesians 4:14** – We will not just accept anything as truth
- **Colossians 2:7–8** – So that we will not fall for anything
- **Hebrews 5:13–14** – We are able to distinguish between good and evil



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT?

- **Ephesians 4:14** so that we may **no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine**, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT?

- **Colossians 2:7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
- **Colossians 2:8** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT?

- **Hebrews 5:13** for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.
- **Hebrews 5:14** But solid food is for the mature, for those who have **their powers of discernment** trained by constant practice **to distinguish good from evil.**



CONCLUSION

- Far too many people accept whatever some says because it sounds good or because a lot of people believe it.
- We must use God's word as the standard for what we believe and not what is popular and is agreed upon by the majority.
- Our goal is not to be easily deceived by what we hear, but to be fully grounded in the truth of God's word.
- All of life is about being able to determine what is right and what is wrong - then to seek to do good and not evil.
- We must be like the Bereans who studied – and verified rather what Paul and Silas were saying was true (Acts 17:11).

