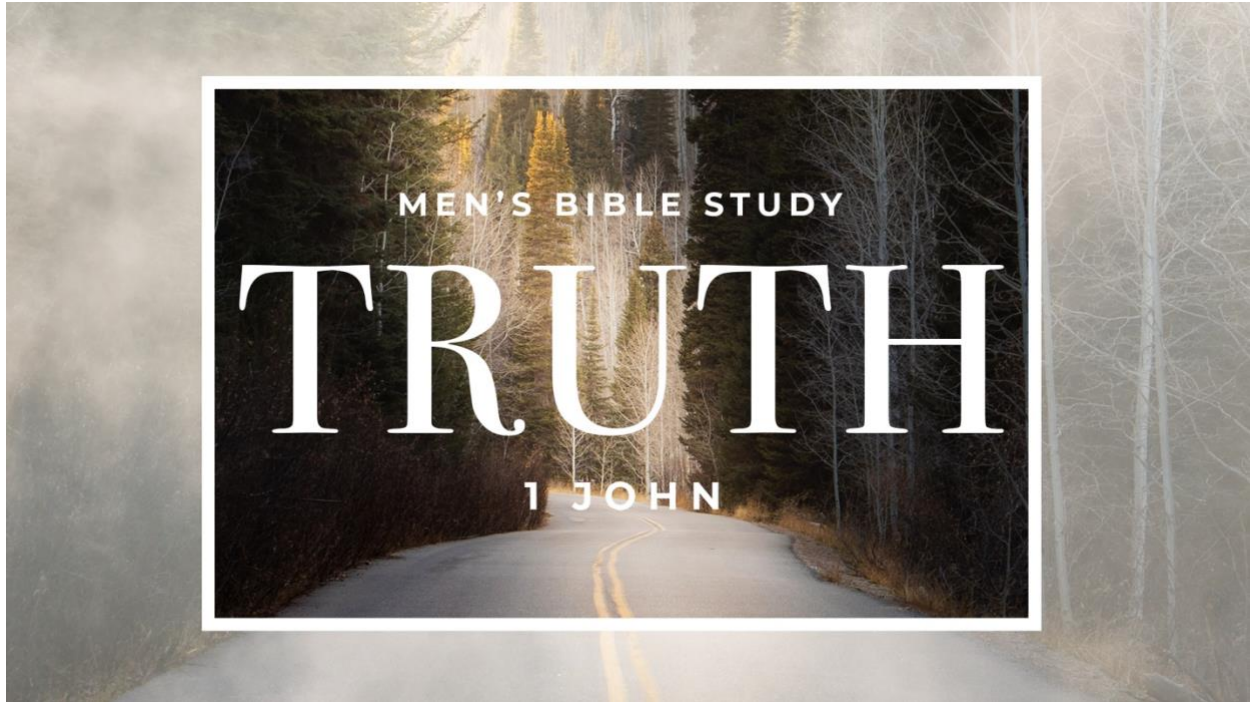


+eastridge church



SESSION FOUR:

“COUNTERFEITS”

1 John 2:18-3:10

SESSION FOUR TEACHING NOTES

Scripture Memory: 1 John 1:1-5 (NIV)

1 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. **3** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We write this to make our joy complete. **5** This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*

This Week's Study Passage: 1 John 2:18-3:10

1 John 2:18 – *Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.*

1 John 2:26 – *I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.*

1 John 4:1-3 – *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

1 John 5:10-11 – *Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

1 John 2:22-23 – *Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist – he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.*

John 14:6 – *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

1 John 2:19 – *They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.*

Luke 8:13 – *Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.*

1. Satan Wants to _____ You

1 Timothy 4:1-2 – *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*

Luke 22:31-32 – *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*

2. Jesus Has _____ You

1 John 2:20-21 – *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.*

1 John 2:26-27 – *I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit – just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

3. Eternal Life _____ You

QUICK OVERVIEW

In this week's passage John warns us about false teachers—people he refers to as “antichrists”—and he gives us some criteria to discern whether someone is a false teacher. Some individuals had left the church, and John wanted to offer assurance to those who stayed and continued to believe the truth of the gospel. He assured them that they had the anointing of God's Spirit and that they could look forward in hope to Christ's return. And unlike the world, God's children do not live in an unbroken pattern of sin.

DIGGING DEEPER

John speaks of those who “went out from us” (2:19), that is, those who had left the fellowship of God's people. This was not simply a decision to join another church but rather an abandonment of the gospel. Despite their outward identification with God's people in the past, those who left the church demonstrated that they did not truly belong to Christ.

How does this serve as a warning for us and for our churches today?

What are some common false teachings that lure people away from Christianity today?

Many people claim that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere.

How does 1 John 2:22-23 speak to this idea?

Those who deny that Jesus is the Christ, and those who deny the Father and the Son, are referred to by John as the “antichrist” (2:22).

Read Romans 10:9–10 and 1 Corinthians 15:3–5 and make a list of other foundational truths that are necessary for one to believe in order to be a Christian.

John calls Christians “children of God” (1 Jn 3:1). That may not sound like a remarkable claim, particularly since even unbelievers often say that “we're all God's children.” Certainly, we should affirm that all people belong to God as their Creator and have value as those who bear His image (Gen 1:27). However, John is saying something more than that. Only those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ have the privilege of being called God's children and knowing God as their heavenly Father. They become part of God's spiritual family. Being a part of God's family means that we should eagerly anticipate Christ's return, the

time when we will finally be set free from sin in new, glorious, resurrected bodies—made like Christ Himself (3:2).

According to 1 John 2:28–3:3, what should the lives of God's children be characterized by while we await Christ's second coming?

We saw in 1 John 1:5–2:2 that true believers do not deny but rather confess their sins, so we know that John does not expect sinless perfection when he says, “No one who abides in him [God] keeps on sinning” (3:6). John is warning us that those who consistently live in unrepentant sin do not have eternal life. Living in sin makes no sense for the Christian because the Son of God came in order to “destroy the works of the devil.” (3:8; see also 3:5).

Based on 1 John 3:4–10, what should we conclude about a person who claims to be a Christian but whose life looks no different from the world?

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

- **What are some ways we can guard ourselves and others against false teaching? What role should the church play in this process?**
- **What are some characteristics of false teaching that make it so attractive to people?**
- **We learned in 1 John 1:9 that true Christians confess their sins. How, then, can John claim in 1 John 3:6 that those who abide in Christ do not keep on sinning? Explain your answer.**
- **According to this week's passage, how is living in sin completely at odds with the purpose of Christ's coming in the flesh?**

SESSION FOUR GROUP PRAYER

PRAYER REQUESTS

