

Connect

In the world of AI images and videos, are you good at spotting fakes? What is the one "tell" you look for?

Verses - 1 John 2:18-23 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

18 Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 21 I have not written to you because you don't know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father as well.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. John gives a specific name to the time period we are living in. What does he call it, and what is the specific evidence he gives that proves we are in this time? (v.18)

2. John describes a group of people who are described as those who did not belong to their church. According to the text, what was the reason given to identify them as such? What was NOT given?

3. What truth is John referring to from v.20? Why is it important?

4. What is the relationship between the Son and the Father mentioned? How is the revelation of this relationship a result of the gospel being revealed to the world? (John 3:16)

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi used a powerful image: True Christianity is like a vine pushing out grapes naturally (Abiding). False religion is like trying to carve a grape out of wood with a chisel (Self-Effort).

Do you find yourself trying to "carve grapes" in your own life and walk? What would it look like this week to stop carving and start "connecting to the vine" instead?

Discuss 2:
Have you ever read the Bible like a textbook and felt nothing? How would "tuning in" to the Spirit through prayer change your study from an academic exercise to a spiritual encounter? (imagine the difference between a believer and non-believer reading the same text.)

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.