

# **On False Prophets**

**I John 4:1-3**

## **1. Contextual Considerations:**

- From loving the right way (3:16-24) to believing the right thing
- John moves from the social test to the doctrinal test; from orthopraxis to orthodoxy.

## **2. Textual Truths:**

### **A. The concern about false prophets**

- This concern has a history:

**Jeremiah - 5:31; 6:13,14**

**Jesus - Matt. 7:15; Mark 13:22**

**Paul - Acts 20:28-30**

**Peter - II Peter 2:1-3**

**Why is the “false prophet” problem such a problem?**

### **B. The focus is on the “spirit” (influence) behind the prophet**

- Behind every prophet there is a spirit (sphere of invisible influence)
- The prophet is the mouthpiece of the spirit

- **Behind the true prophet is the Spirit of God. You know it is the Spirit of God because this Spirit always testifies of Christ.**

**C. The call to “try” (test, prove)**

- **The Christian is warned against “gullibility”**
- **What is the test? The confession of Jesus Christ (see vv 2,3)**

**“Confessing” means more than “acknowledging”. The demons “acknowledge” (see Mark 1:24; 3:11)**

**To confess Christ is to embrace the truth that He is the Son of God. It means to boldly and consistently declare the truth.**

- **What is the truth? “That Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh”**

**“The Fundamental Christian doctrine which can never be compromised is the eternal divine-human person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”.**

- **As Christians we embrace his eternal deity and his historical humanity!**