



1

The three credentials

- **Theological** (What we believe):
Whether one believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who actually came to earth in the flesh; that he is God incarnate. (1Jn. 4:2)

2

The three credentials

- **Moral**: (What we do):
Whether we are obeying the teachings and commands of the one we call Lord. (1Jn. 2:4-6)

3

The three credentials

- **Relational**: (How we love):
Whether or not we love one another based on God's love for us. (1Jn. 4:8-11)

4

What this message is about:

John moves again to the belief credential of a true follower of Jesus. He makes distinctions between true and false believers, defines the nature and the effect of false teaching, and lists the safeguards we all have against it.

5

Purpose of this message

To encourage us to love God with our minds.

6

How do we engage our minds in loving Jesus and protecting ourselves from destructive thinking regarding him?

7

1. Know the major differences between false beliefs and true beliefs.

8

a. False beliefs are described as “antichrist” and “last hour.”

9

1John 2:18

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore, we know that it is the last hour.

10

b. False believers defect.

11

1John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

12

c. True believers have true anointing

13

1John 2:20

But you have been anointed by the Holy One,

14

d. True anointing brings knowledge and truth

15

1John 2:21

. . . and you all have knowledge.

²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

16

2. Know the nature and effect of false beliefs.

17

a. The nature of false beliefs is a denial that Jesus is the Messiah, the incarnate Son of God.

18

1John 2:22

²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

19

b. The effect of false belief is loss of the Father.

20

1John 2:23

No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

21

3. Know how to abide in the message and the Spirit.

22

1John 2:24-27

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

23

1John 2:24-27

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you.

24

1John 2:24-27

But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

25

John 15:4-5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

26

John 15:4-5

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

27



28

Next Step

What you believe about Jesus matters. It will affect everything in your spiritual life. Are you committed to what is true about him? Do you know him? Do you love him with all your mind?

29