



## Theme

- Addressing some of the controversy that led people to leave the church
- Differing/wrong beliefs
- Causing people to doubt their own abilities to discern

## Overview

- 2:18-27: Knowing the truth
- 4:1-6: Testing the truth
- 2:28-3:10: Doing what is right

## Theology 101

- Incarnation:
  - Latin - "in the flesh"
  - Jesus took on human flesh, remaining fully divine/God
  - Jesus "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14)

## Theology 101

- **Incarnation:**
  - “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”  
(Philippians 2:6-8)

## Theology 101

- **Messiah/Christ:**
  - **Messiah - Hebrew; Christ - Greek both mean “anointed one”**
  - **Set apart for a special, God-ordained purpose**
  - ***THE* anointed one - save God’s people**
  - **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16)**

## Theology 101

- **Messiah/Christ:**
  - **John 20:30-31: “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”**

## Theology 101

- **Messiah/Christ:**
  - **Peter testifies Jesus is the Messiah, fulfills prophecy, “that everyone who believe in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:43)**

## Theology 101

- **antichrist:**
  - **The word only appears in 1 John and 2 John**
  - **“*antichristos*” - someone or something or an idea that is against the Christ**
  - **No Antichrist - very misunderstood idea**

## Theology 101

- **antichrist:**
  - **“even now many antichrists have come” (2:18)**
  - **Those who are against the idea of the incarnation (1 John 4:3; 2 John 1:7)**

## Theology 101

- **Eternal life:**
  - **2:25: “And this is what he promised us —eternal life.”**
  - **Hebrew scripture: “life unto the age” - a significant period**
  - **Genesis: humans are created, in the garden, communion with God - “life unto the age” of connection and communion with God**

## Theology 101

- **Eternal life:**
  - **Two choices:**
    - **Life on our own terms**
    - **God’s way**
  - **God loves us - sent his son, Jesus - God’s way to eternal life**
  - **“This is eternal life, that they may know you, the one true God, & Jesus Christ whom you have sent”  
John 17:3**

## Theology 101

- **Eternal life:**
  - **Quality, not quantity - significant, flourishing life; like the Garden of Eden**
  - **“Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life” (John 6:47)**

## 2:18-27: Knowing the truth

- **First mention of “antichrists” (v.18), the group that left denied Jesus as the Christ**
- **“I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it...” (v.21)**
- **Remained connected to Jesus (v.24), able to discern**
- **Holy Spirit - “anointing from the Holy One” (v.20)**

## 4:1-6: Testing the truth

- **Big theological concern: incarnation; false teachers saying that Jesus was not fully human (4:2)**
- **If anyone claims to speak on God’s behalf but doesn’t focus on Jesus as the crucified Son of God, they do not speak for God (4:3)**
- **God loved the world, gave his Son to be THE Messiah**
- **Spiritual discernment**

## 2:28-3:10: Doing what is right

- **Main idea: if we remain in Christ then we would truly live like Christ and do what is right**
- **“Dear children, the one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.” (3:7)**
- **Righteousness - right relationship with God, other people, and all creation**
- **We can tell by the fruit of someone’s life if someone is truly a follower of Jesus Christ (v.10)**

## 2:28-3:10: Doing what is right

- “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (3:1)
- They will know the truth and the way of Jesus because they abide in Jesus

## Takeaways

- Develop spiritual discernment
  - *Pursuing God's Will Together* by Ruth Haley Barton
  - spiritual discernment: “the ability to distinguish or discriminate between good (that which is of God and draws us closer to God) and evil (that which is not of God and draws us away from God).”
  - Cultivate through practices: scripture, prayer, silence, community, etc.

## Takeaways

- Develop spiritual discernment
  - Fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

## Takeaways

- Remember the truth we know Jesus Christ and who Jesus is
  - Jesus is “the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6)
  - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8)
  - Jesus Christ is “Lord of lords and King of kings” (Revelation 17:14)

## Takeaways

- Remember the truth we know Jesus Christ and who Jesus is
- “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us” (Ephesians 5:1-2)

## The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

## The Apostles’ Creed

**he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again  
from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.**

## The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**