

/We will now begin the sixth lecture on 1 John.

/Read 1 John 3:23-24. /And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

/God's command is that we believe in Jesus and love one another. /Jesus has previously given us this command on love. /John 13:14 /To believe in Christ and love one another is the greatest commandment in the Old and New Testaments.

/Whoever keeps this command on love will abide in the Lord. /He will live in the love of God. /The works and guidance of the Holy Spirit are with those who live in the world of love. /He will enjoy spiritual rest in Christ.

/His spirit will grow healthily because he will eat the daily food of God's holy Word. /He will be a true disciple of the Lord. /One must enter the world of love to receive all that God gives him.

/If one does not act in love, he will not receive answers to his prayers because he will be blocked off from God. /There are heaters that heat up rooms. /If the heater is broken, /the room cannot be warm.

/Again, /in order to receive God's grace and love, /we must enter the world of love. /Then we can receive all that God gives us.

/The title of chapter 4 is "Spiritual Love." /We will look at the main points. /First, recognize false prophets. /Verses 1-6. /Second, God is love. /Verses 7-8. /Third, God first loved us. /Verses 9-11.

/Fourth, abide in love. /Verses 12-16. /Fifth, the effects of love. /Verses 17-18. /Sixth, he who loves God loves his brother. /Verses 19-21.

/This is the summary of chapter 4. /The apostle John thoroughly explains Christianity's essence of love. /John's thorough explanation of love for God is known as the second best chapter on love in the Bible, after 1 Corinthians 13. /

/To classify the chapter into two big categories, /verses one through six /speak of the works of the devil and how to recognize it. /Verses seven through twenty-one /speak of believers who are to love one another, /and those who do not love are not true believers.

/There are four reasons for this. /First, love comes from God. /Verse 7. /Second, /love comes from God's management. /Verse 9.

/Third, /the believers' practice of love is the natural result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. /Verses 13-16. /Fourth, /he who truly loves God loves his brothers. /Verses 19-21.

/Read verse 1. /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 means that we must not believe every spirit because there is the spirit of God and the spirit of the devil. /We must not believe all works of the spirit that occur in the name of Christianity. /The works of the devil can take place.

/The false spirit works with deceiving spirits. /1 Timothy 4:1 /Therefore, we must test the spirits to see whether they are from God or if they are from the devil. /To test is to discern. /Then how can we make discernments?

/First, we must test whether their doctrine is in agreement with the Bible. /A couples of verses may have been interpreted in the same way, but if the interpretation of the entire Bible is different, it is not a correct interpretation. /The spirit of truth corresponds with the Bible, yet anything that does not correspond with the Bible is the work of the devil.

/Whatever is not of the biblical truth will not succeed in its works. /John 16:13 /The Holy Spirit guides us into the truth. /The truth and the Holy Spirit work together. /The truth and the Holy Spirit work together like needle and thread.

/No matter how sweet the deceiving words sound to our ears and hearts, /we must know that if it does not correspond with God's truth, we must cut it off. /When the serpent approached Eve, /she was eventually tempted by the devil during her conversation with it, even though the devil spoke in disagreement to God's Word.

/Second, how can we make discernments? /We can know through others' bearing of fruit. /Matthew 7:15-19 says, /a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. /Good trees bear good fruit.

/Therefore, we can know through the bearing of fruit. /The devil disguises himself as a bright angel and entices us. /Because the devil disguises himself as a bright angel, we can discern whether one is a spirit of God by the type of fruit they bear.

/Third, how can we make discernments? /We can know by seeing whether there is peace or uneasiness in our spirits. /The spirit is at peace with the works of the Holy Spirit. /The spirit is uneasy and afraid with the works of the devil.

/When Cain murdered his brother, he was afraid and attempted to hide, and this was not the work of God but of the devil. /Stephen has the face of an angel and his heart was in heaven as he was being stoned to death. This is the work of God.

/Fourth, how can we make discernments? /We can know through correct knowledge about Jesus Christ. /This is in verse 2. /Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

/There are many active false prophets today, just as there were in the times of the apostle

John. /False prophets are active just as there are weeds among good seeds. /Sometimes they approach people in the name of the “church.”

/There are many spirits who deceive people in the “name of God.” /In such times we must discern whether the doctrine by which they preach is correct. /We must see if they believe that Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary.

/We can know through their belief in Jesus’ death on the cross. /We must see if they believe in Jesus’ physical resurrection, /Jesus’ ascension, /and Jesus’ Second Coming.

/We can make discernments through their belief or unbelief in Jesus Christ. /We can know through the Holy Spirit. /We can make discernments through the others’ bearing of good or bad fruit and through peace or uneasiness in our spirits.

/We can make distinctions when we properly know about and believe in Jesus. /When the apostle Paul wrote letters to the church of Rome, /he said to watch out for those who cause divisions, put obstacles in your way, and keep away from them. /Romans 16:17 /We cannot associate with cults, and we must forsake them for our faith to live.

/Verses 2-3. /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.

/The spirit of the Antichrist that denies the divinity and character of Jesus Christ exists in this world. /The spirit that does not acknowledge that Jesus came in the flesh is the spirit of the devil.

/At the time, Gnosticism surfaced and claimed that Jesus did not come in the flesh but only in the spirit. /There were also Jews who believed that Jesus was just a man and not the Messiah.

/They were cults, evil spirits, and people not of God. /There are many people today who deny the divinity and character of Jesus.

/There are groups that are against the doctrine of the Trinity. /There are those who deny and do not believe in the atonement of Jesus. /There are cults that do not believe in the Lord’s resurrection and return.

/Liberation theologians believe, “Jesus is not the Redeemer, but a Liberator of the oppressed.” /These false mystics believe and claim that Jesus gives them revelations and visions.

/There is a cult that claims that “all sicknesses come from the devil.” /This is a heretical idea that does not agree with the Bible. /We must be careful of such works of the Antichrist.

/Some claim that they are ambassador plenipotentiaries of God. /Some claim that they are the ones who opened the scroll, the olive trees, and the Helper Holy Spirit. /Where in the Bible does it say this?

/There are so many nonsensical doctrines such as these, and people are deceived by them. /Jesus Christ was the incarnation of God. Jesus was fully man and is fully God.

/We must not be received by others, and we must lead people to the truth. /Jesus surely came to this earth in the body of man. /Jesus rose again from the dead, and He showed Himself as a testimony to others.

/The Antichrist denies the divinity and character of Jesus, even though there is legitimate evidence in the Bible about Jesus. /There are servants of the devil that have abandoned their faith. /We must not believe such false doctrines.

/Verse 4. /You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

/Those who are from God can overcome the spirit of the devil. /The spirit of Christ dwells in the believer who believes that Jesus is Christ. /Romans 8:9

/Believers cannot defeat the devil by their own strength, /but they can when they reside in the Lord with the power of the Word and the Holy Spirit. /We cannot overcome with our own strength, but can overcome the devil with the power of God and through Jesus.

/The Holy Spirit dwells in and speaks to believers. /Believers can walk down the road of life when they are strengthened by God's Word and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and defeat the devil. /Satan has already been defeated.

/When we believers enter the presence of God, we can then defeat the powers of the devil. /Pharaoh laughed when Moses stood before him with a staff. /However, Pharaoh submitted to Moses when Moses stepped forward with the power of God.

/That was the result of the Almighty God's power upon Moses. /The reformer Martin Luther was very weak before the great powers of Catholicism. /However, he was able to overcome the power of Catholicism when God stood by Luther who proclaimed the truth.

/God's power rested on Luther. /Therefore, we must live in God and rely on him so that we may defeat the devil.

/Verses 5-6. /They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

/Those from the world and those who are from God speak different things. /Those from the Antichrist speak of the things of the world, and the people of the world listen to them. /Believers from God hear God's Word of truth through the apostles.

/We can recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood through what the apostles have said. /What must we listen to as people from God? /Words express man's character.

/We must most definitely receive the truth, speak holy words, and preach the truth. /The same goes for the church. /The secular church speaks of things of the world. /It speaks of physical things and blessings that come from the world.

/However, the true church speaks only of the Word of truth. /Whether people listen to us or don't, we must teach the truth and preach the truth. /Therefore, believers must not believe all spirits. /The worldly spirit of the devil has great strength to deceive people.

/The deceiving spirit is fun and enjoyable to the ears. /However, we must leave its presence by knowing that its words are not in agreement with the Bible and that its works are from the spirit of evil. /We must stand firm in our faith in Jesus Christ. /We must not be shaken and stand firm, and we must work diligently for the works of the Lord.

/Verses 7-8. /Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

/God is love. /The greatest and most beautiful love on earth is the love between man and woman. /The most benevolent and noble love is the love of parents. /However, even the seemingly perfect love of a couple can be broken.

/The love of parents that was once deeper than the ocean and higher than the heavens can change and abandon their children. /However, the only love that will never change is the love of God. /What is the reason for this? /God himself is love. /Psalm 27:10

/God showed his love for us in that he sent his one and only Son to this earth to die on the cross to save man from his sins. /Romans 5:8 /God showed sacrificial, unending and unconditional love.

/There are many characteristics of God, /but the greatest is love. /God's love became the source of our believers' salvation, and God chose us believers even before time began. /He sent his one and only Son to shed His blood and redeem us.

/He called us to be his children. /God clothed us with the love that we will enjoy for an eternity in the kingdom of God. /Those who are clothed with God's love can go before God and know him.

/This is not comprehensible through theories and knowledge, /but through personal experiences and through love that one has received. /There is no one besides God who

shows such complete love.

/We do not pay to receive this love. /God's love is given freely by his mercy. /Therefore, God is love, and we must also love God.

/Verses 9-10. /This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

/First, God sent his one and only Son into the world. /Verse 9. /God planned to send his one and only Son Jesus as all of creation walked down the road of suffering as a result of sin.

/God sent his one and only Son to save our once-dead spirits and to give us eternal life. / God gave us the gospel /after the fall of Adam and Eve, mankind's progenitors.

/When their shame was revealed, God clothed Adam with leather and he became a type of Christ's sacrifice. /When Abraham sacrificed Isaac on Mount Moriah, he confessed, "Jehovah Jireh," with belief that God would provide a ram, and that was a sign of the coming Christ.

/In the times of David, the sign of the coming Christ was given by God who said, "I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom." /Jesus came to this earth two thousand years ago in the body of man.

/God sent his one and only Son to this earth, who became the sacrificial offering of atonement. /This was the revealing of God's love. /How else was God's love revealed? / His one and only Son was made the sacrificial offering.

/We did not love God first. /God first loved us, and he broke down the wall of sin that stood between him and us. /Jesus died on the cross and became the sacrificial offering for us, who were once enemies of God, and thus, restored us of our relationship with God.

/The problem of our sin was resolved. We believers are now able to go before God in confidence by the blood shed by Christ. /Ephesians 3:12 /We cannot measure the height, depth, width, or length of God's love for us.

/We must comprehend God's unmeasurable love for us and for our salvation. /The apostle Paul wrote to the church of Ephesus.

/Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:18-19 /that the people would know how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is. /God sent Jesus to this earth to die as a sacrificial offering on the cross all because of his love for us.

/Verse 11. /Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

/Those who received God's unmeasurable love must also love one another. /Those who received God's love must be able to love others. /We have received God's holy love, and thus, we must show the same true love to others.

/We must repent of our lack of love, and we must truly love our neighbors. /When we fail to love others, that proves to be evidence that God's love does not dwell in us. /True agape love is not loving those who love us, but loving those who we cannot love.

/This is because God first loved us, who were in sin. /We must love our neighbors as ourselves because of the great love that we first received from God.

/This is a duty we must carry out while we live on this earth. /We must model ourselves on the love of God and Christ, and love others.

/Hatred and discord come when the devil comes between people. /We must not partake in it, we must have good hearts, and we must dwell in the world of love.

/Verses 12-16. /No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

/If believers want to love one another, they must live in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. /No one has ever seen God. /However, if we love one another, it is proof that we live in God.

/We can show the love of God to others. /Others will see that God lives in him who shows love to others.

/One will also have joy because he will know that God is working in him. /God's love is always in the believers' hearts, and his love is seen through his works. /The Holy Spirit and the Son of God also dwell within us.

/When we believers live in this world, we must live together with the Father God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. /When we live in God, we can find refuge, peace, and life even in the midst of hardships, sufferings, and fear. /God will also live in us.

/When we live in God, we can enjoy grace, power, and joy that comes from him. /When we truly love God and truly obey God's Word, we can then truly love our neighbors.

/When we truly love our brothers, we can cover up their sins. /1 Peter 4:8 /If we do not have love, we will continue to discover others' faults and sins. /In such times, we must confess, "There is no love in me," and repent.

/Those who have an abundance of love and live in the love of the Lord does not see the shortcomings of others. /They see good qualities of others. /The prodigal son's father saw and loved his son for his good qualities.

/If the father had only seen his son's shortcomings, he would not have received his son when he returned. /The prodigal son's father saw that his son was repentant, and hence, forgave and received his son. /The father bathed and clothed his son.

/He caught a fattened calf and held a feast. /Those who love take after the nature of God's love, and God dwells in them so that they become people of love.

/Verses 17-18. /In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

/Here, it tells us what happens when we truly love. /First, we will not fear but have confidence on the day of judgment. /In verses 17 and 18, /man cannot gain confidence through money or authority.

/Those of the world may seem outwardly strong, /yet, they become weak and anxious when they become even the slightest bit ill. /However, when we truly love, there will be no fear and we will have confidence before God on the day of judgment.

/There is no fear in love, and perfect love drives out fear. /Why do people become afraid? /They are afraid that they may face losses. /They are afraid that they may be cursed at and beaten. /They are afraid of death. /This is evidence that there is no true love in them.

/The love that we received from God is the love of Jesus Christ who gave Himself up to shed His blood for us. /This is love that conquered sin, conquered the devil and death. /Those who practice this love will not fear the day of judgment. /We can become more courageous.

/The love of Christ compels us. /2 Corinthians 5:14 /Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. /We are conquerors of all things including /hardship or persecution, /famine or nakedness, danger or the sword. /Romans 8:35-37.

/When we receive the great love of God who is always with us /and live in the world of love, there will be no fear. /Those who fear do not live in the love of God.

/Second, our characters will be made complete, as is written in verse 17. /Our faith, obedience, and relief must come from love. /When we love God and our neighbors, our characters will grow complete. /Love is the completion of all laws. /Matthew 5:48 /When we love, our characters and faith will become like the Lord and become perfect.



/Here we will conclude the sixth lecture on 1 John. /Thank you.