

The Marks of a True Believer

1 John 2:18-27

Theme: John contrasts true believers from spiritual imposters.

- 1) THEIR PRACTICE (v.19)
 - A) These imposters ultimately _____ themselves from the church.
 - B) True believers will _____ or remain in fellowship and persevere.
- 2) THEIR EXPERIENCE (vv.20-21)
 - A) The true believer is marked by this same anointing or _____ of the _____.
 - B) The true believer possesses this spiritual _____ or intuition.
- 3) THEIR DOCTRINE (vv.22-23)
 - A) “What people are taught to fear most from absolutism is not error but _____”
 - B) You either have God or you do not _____ God.
- 4) THE BELIEVER’S PROTECTION AGAINST HERESY (vv.24-27)
 - A) The objective truth of the _____!
 - B) The subjective experience of the _____!

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Small Group Questions

1. What does John mean by the phrase ‘the last hour’?
2. What in particular characterizes the ‘last hour’ according to this passage?
3. What are the characteristics of those to whom John refers as ‘antichrists’?
4. What, by contrast, characterizes the ‘dear children’?
5. To whom or what does the phrase ‘the anointing’ refer?
6. To what does the phrase ‘what you have heard from the beginning’ refer?
7. What does John exhort his readers to do in the light of the teaching of the antichrists?
8. What does this passage teach us about the presence and prevalence of false teaching in the world and within the nominal church?
9. What are some of the ways in which false teaching manifests today?
10. In what way does this passage encourage believers to stand firm in the faith?

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