

1 John – Endorsing Genuine Heritage

IV. By Emphasizing the Reassurances of the Christian Life.

(4:1-21)

A. Through Expressing the Confession of the Christian (4:1-6)

1. By appraising the source of truth (4:1-3)
2. By applying the strategy of truth (4:4-5)
3. By appropriating the succession of truth (4:6)

B. Through Expressing the Compassion of the Christian (4:7-21)

1. By realizing the conception of love (4:7-10)
2. By remembering the confession of love (4:11-16)
3. By reinforcing the confidence of love (4:17-19)
4. By reviving the commandment to love (4:20-21)



Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God – Romans 10:17

Discerning False Teaching

The Ten Marks of a Cult

A cult is organized heresy. It is a religious movement that twists orthodox faith turning truth into lies. Absolute devotion to the twisted truth and the movement's leader is required. A cult can be discerned by examination through the following filters:

- 1. Fictitious Scripture** – *What does this group teach about the Bible or extra-revelation?*
- 2. Fallible Theology** – *What does this group teach about God? about the Trinity? about the Holy Spirit?*
- 3. Flawed Christology** – *What does this group teach about Jesus?*
- 4. Faulty Doctrine** – *What doctrine does this group teach about sin? about salvation? about the security of the believer? about Israel?*
- 5. Feeble Hope** – *What does this group teach about the after-life? about Heaven? about Hell?*
- 6. Forceful Organizational Structure** – *What does this group teach about the authority of their organization? about the Church? about the ordinances of the Church?*
- 7. Fabricated Innovations** – *What does this group teach about the experiences of Christians? about the normal Christian life?*
- 8. Filtered Syncretism** – *What does this group teach about assimilating the doctrines of other groups?*
- 9. Fraudulent Monetary Exploitation** – *What does this group teach about finances? about financial extravagances of the leadership?*
- 10. Flagrant Denunciation of Others** – *What does this group communicate in their attitudes toward other believers? toward other churches?*