

Light, Life and Love: A Series in 1 John  
Do Not Be Deceived  
1 John 4:1-6

*"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..."*

1 John 4:1

**Main Point:** Loving Christians are not deceived.

*"For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist."*

2 John 7

**Point One:** Christian faith is not spiritual gullibility.

How can I be deceived?

1. By failing to show love (3:18)
2. By not properly testing the spirits (4:1)
3. By not knowing sound doctrine (4:2-3)
4. By not listening to the Spirit and others (4:6)

Unfortunately, those who deceive are successful because they present themselves as being true.

**Point Two:** Christian faith is greater than spiritual deception.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

John 14:12

“The antichrist can be ‘in the world’ and evil spirits can be ‘in the false teachers,’ but ‘living in God’ is possible only for the children of God.”

-Glenn W.

Barker

**Point Three:** Christian faith does not accommodate the world’s beliefs.

A test: The Holy Spirit’s presence vs. the antichrist:

1. Confession of Jesus Christ who came in the flesh (4:1-3)
2. Hearing and obeying the Gospel (3:4-10; 4:6)
3. True believers are *not* following (4:5)

*“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.”*

John 10:14-15

Sermon by Pastor Dave Williams April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Next week: Kevin McLouth preaching 1 John 4:7-21