

- There is much poor & dangerous teaching disguised as Christianity
- Christians are to exercise wise unbelief – and cultivate a discerning spirit
- Discernment (4:16) is closely connected to love – 3:11-24, 4:7-21

### 1. All Christians must exercise discernment – v1

- “Dear children” – not just for the teachers or elders
- “Do not believe” – not an option
- “many false prophets” – church riddled with wrong teaching which appears genuine

### 2. Ask “What do they teach about Jesus and his work?” - v2-3

- The test isn’t likeability or signs/miracles or feelings
- Not the only test (see Deut 18:22, Matt 7:15, 2 Cor 2:17)
- The test is about Jesus –
  - Is he the focus?
  - What do they teach about Jesus’ person? “has come in the flesh”
    - Fully man & fully God?
    - Is he still in the flesh – ie. a literal resurrection?
  - What do they teach about Jesus’ work? “the Christ”
    - Is his work enough to get us to Heaven?
- Not enough to say words: “acknowledges” = “confesses” = “trusts” (Rom 10:9)
- Are they trusting Jesus to get them to Heaven?

### 3. Roots reveal everything – v4-6

#### a) Don’t panic – YOU are rooted in God – v4

- Don’t be intimidated by those who make great claims
- You are already rooted in God

#### b) Beware of Worldly roots – v5

- Where is the focus of their teaching? Is it this life?
- Do they promise a quick fix solution?
- Don’t be fooled by their popularity

#### c) Stay rooted in the Apostles’ teaching – v6

- Know what the scripture says - Measure everything against it
- Know the centrality of God’s glory, not man’s – Eph 1
- Know the sinfulness of the human heart – Eph 2, Gen 6
- Know the place of suffering in God’s people – Rom 8, 1 Peter 1
- Know that the Holy Spirit always points us to Jesus - John 16:14



### Notices

Sab	Evening meeting at Day Centre - I John 4:7-5:5	8pm
Wed	Prayer time for Donegal Stranorlar RP Church	8pm
Sat 3rd	Evangelism Conference - “Advancing the Gospel in 21st Century Ireland” Paudge Mulvihill & Mark Loughridge 10:30am - 1:00pm - Trinity RPC	
Sat 10th May	Family Day Conference - Self worth, Identity and Stress in Childhood Speaker Brenda Kelso - 10.30am-3pm Details on poster - application forms available	

### Denomination News

#### Summer Camps

Application forms available. Deadline: 1st May. Remember the fellowship pays half the cost

#### Day Visitors to Castlewellan Conference

If you aren’t able to go to the conference/holiday week in August you are welcome to go as a day visitor. Please fill in a forms if you intend to go as a day visitor.

#### Cooks for Senior Camp

R.P. Senior Camp require at least three cooks for this summer. The camp begins on Sat 5th July and finishes on Sat 12th July. If you are available and willing to come along and help as a cook, either for the whole week or for part of it, please contact Robert or Lynn Robb on 048 7772 2136.

Next Sabbath: I John 5

Opening Psalm: 75

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie

Oversight elders: Graham Fallows 048 7130 1641 William Lynch 048 7139 8002