

A REMINDER OF THE THREE “TESTS” OF SALVATION THROUGHOUT 1 JOHN

1. The THEOLOGICAL test — Do you BELIEVE that Jesus is the Son of God (18x) and therefore, the LIGHT of the world?

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

2. The MORAL Test — Is it your desire to be holy? Are you making every EFFORT to live above sin?

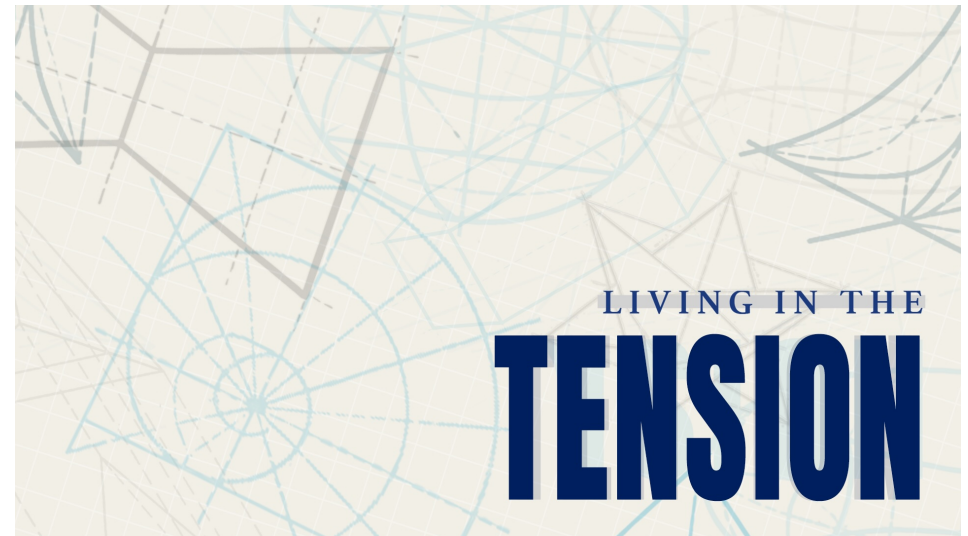
1John 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; . . .

3. SOCIAL Test — Do you truly LOVE others?

1John 4:21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Sample Cults	Description
Nicolaitism	A sect traditionally believed to be founded by Nicholas of Antioch, one of the seven deacons of Acts 6:1–6, who believed that sexual indulgence was necessary for salvation and ate food sacrificed to idols. They are condemned in the Book of Revelation by John.
Gnosticism	A complex system of thought that teaches that the material world is evil and that salvation can be achieved through knowledge (gnosis).
Doceticism	A belief which holds that Jesus Christ did not have a real physical body, but only an apparent or illusory one.
Adoptionism	The belief that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God from eternity, but was adopted by God at some point in his life.
Sabellianism	The belief that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not three distinct persons, but are simply different manifestations of the same divine being.

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June 20 & 21, 2026 | Living in the Tension- 1 | 1 John 2:18-27 | Dennis Miller

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES —

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. 21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us — eternal life.

1John 2:26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

WHAT IS THE TENSION?

Beware, there are false TEACHERS and fake BELIEVERS within the Church Body. Don't be DECEIVED!

THREE KEY THEMES

1. The time is AT HAND!

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

a. "CHILDREN" — (παιδιά, paidia) — 9 times in this letter referring to children, but also possibly STUDENTS.

b. "The last HOUR it is!" — John says this TWICE.

— PRESENT age (began with the first coming of Jesus).

— FUTURE age (begins with the second coming of Jesus).

c. The Antichrist — There is ONE who will come someday who is the ULTIMATE anti-Christ. "Anti" means "instead of." (John is the only one to use this term).

Dan 9:26 ... prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. . . . 27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering.

Matthew 24:15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

2Thess 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

2. But, there are MANY antichrists (false believers and teachers) within the church — and this is what should cause you to be ALERT!

1John 2:18. . . so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

How do we identify the "antichrists?"

a. They DEPART.

1John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

b. They DENY that Jesus is the CHRIST (and by so doing, they deny the FATHER and the Son).

1John 2:22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. . . .

c. They DECEIVE.

1John 2:22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? . . .

1John 2:26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

— Their FALSE teaching — heresy; sects; cults.

— Knowledge — GNOSTICISM.

1John 2:20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

— The PERSON of Jesus.

1John 2:22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?

3. There are also TRUE Believers.

a. They STAY (*abide*). — Why, because they are ANOINTED. (The word for anointing is *charisma*, and means "to pour OIL upon." It is a reference to the HOLY SPIRIT.)

1John 2:24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

b. They CONFESS Christ.

1John 2:23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

c. They have the TRUTH — there is nothing MORE.

1John 2:21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, . . .

THE BOTTOM LINE (LESSONS WE LEARN)

1John 2:26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

1. John's purpose in writing is to WARN his readers about people who are DECEPTIVE.

2. If you have COMMITTED your life to Christ, you have His ANOINTING (the Holy Spirit).

3. You have no need for NEW teaching. (John wasn't saying that we don't need teachers in the church, but that, when it comes to Jesus, you KNOW Him.)

Jer 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

4. And RELAX (*abide in him*). You are WANTING for NOTHING!