

SERIES TITLE: DEEPER

PART NINE: DEEP IDENTITY

TEXT: 1 JOHN 4:1-21

INTRODUCTION.

The series' theme comes from 1 John 2:24, "If what you heard from the beginning lives deeply in you, you will live deeply in both Son and Father." [The Message] We all want to be deep. We want something lasting, substantive, and profound. This study of 1 John calls us to deeply root ourselves in Jesus, in order to thrive in a fallen world.

DISCUSSION.

If you've ever had someone steal your identity, describe what that was like?

EXAMINATION.

- V.1 Why does John use the word "spirit" when he is clearly talking about people?
- Vv.2-3 What error is avoided by acknowledging that Jesus "has come in the flesh"?
- Is saying the right words about Jesus all that is needed to prove the spirit is from God? Why or why not?
- Vv.4-6 On what basis have the dear children "overcome them"?
- When John says "whoever knows God listens to us" who are the "us" he refers to?
- Vv.7-11 What are some characteristics of God's love as defined here?
- Vv.12-18 In what sense is God's love made complete in us?
- What kind of fear does love drive out?
- Vv.19-21 John again talks about loving our brother. Who is our brother?
- What is the significance of loving our brother?

APPLICATION.

- Most people, regardless of their religious beliefs, really like Jesus. From this passage, what more do they need to believe about Jesus, beyond that?

- Discerning what comes from God and what does not, boils down to two tests: Confessing Christ and Demonstrating Love. Which of these do you think is most lacking among Christians and why?
- How you show love to others in a way that makes the invisible God visible?
- Would you say that you have experienced God's love in such a way that you can live fearlessly? Why or why not? What needs to change?
- What type of relationship or individual do you find difficult to love and why?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?