

Love That Discerns Discerning Truth in a World of Lies

1 John 4:1-6

Love That Discerns

Deception in the world

A Crowd Standing Too Close To Each Other During COVID-19



Love That Discerns

Deception in the world

The Same Crowd From a Different Angle



Love That Discerns

Deception in the world

How Large is the Demonstration?



Love That Discerns

Deception in the world

How Bad is the Hurricane?



Love That Discerns

Deception in the world

How Bad is the Hurricane?



Love That Discerns

Deception in the world

Spiritual Deception is also Prevalent



Love That Discerns

Definition

Definitions of Discernment

- 1. The ability to judge well.**
- 2. The process of making careful distinctions in our thinking about truth.**
- 3. “Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.” – Charles H. Spurgeon**

Love That Discerns

Discernment

The Biblical Call for Discernment

1. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be discerning.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Love That Discerns

Discernment

The Biblical Call for Discernment

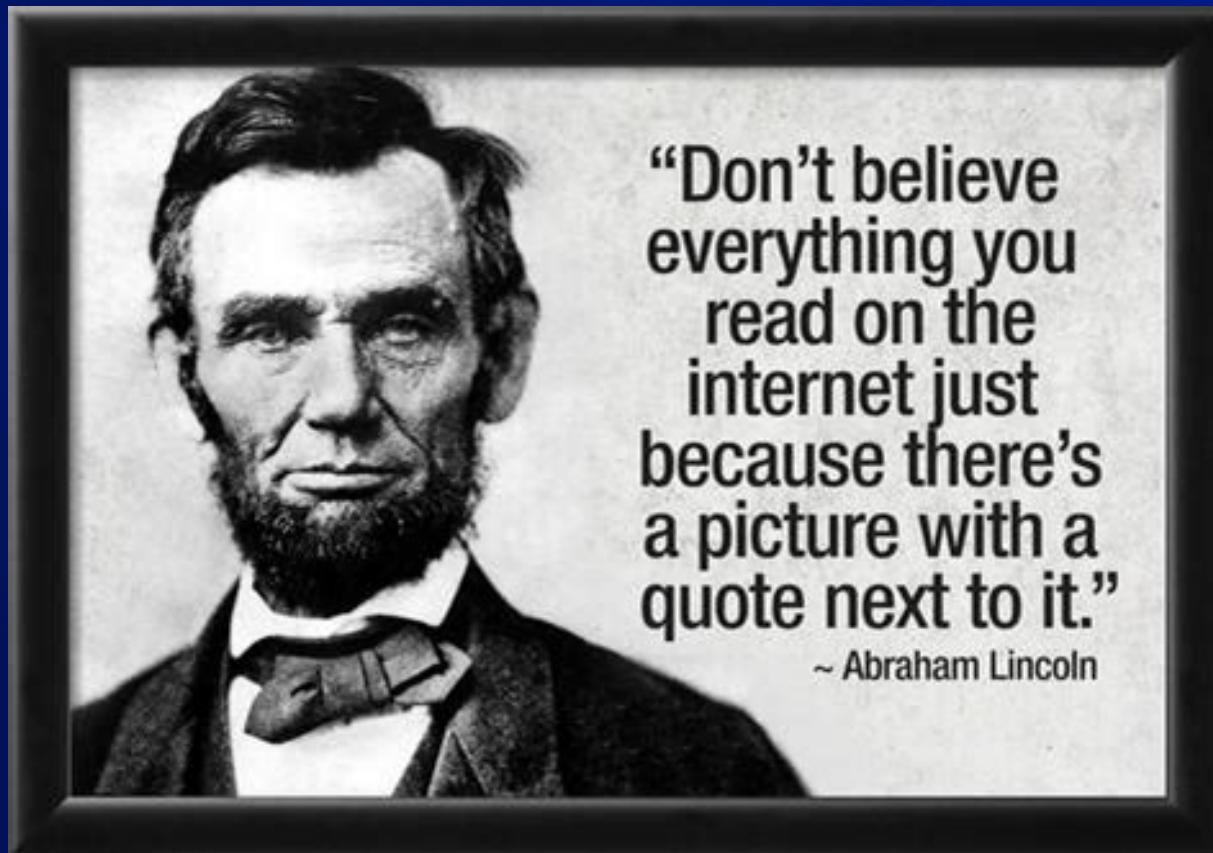
1. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be discerning.
2. The need for discernment.
 - A. The Bible warns against a lack of discernment.

Proverbs 14:15 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

Romans 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Love That Discerns

Discernment



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 - A. The Bible warns against a lack of discernment.**
 - B. Not everything that appears to be true is actually true.**

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Love That Discerns

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The Biblical Call for Discernment

- 1. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be discerning.**
- 2. The need for discernment.**
 - A. The Bible warns against a lack of discernment.**
 - B. Not everything that appears to be true is actually true.**
 - C. People will often desire error rather than truth.**

2 Timothy 4:2-4 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Love That Discerns

Discernment

The Biblical Call for Discernment

1. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be discerning.
2. The need for discernment.
 - A. The Bible warns against a lack of discernment.
 - B. Not everything that appears to be true is actually true.
 - C. People will often desire error rather than truth.
 - D. Without discernment, Christians are at risk.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

1. Truth

John 18:37-38 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

1. Truth

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- 1. The most powerful corrective to error.**
- 2. A foundation of truth eliminates decisions by emotions or opinions.**
- 3. It provides the final authority for what is true and what is not true.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

1. The Truth of the Christian Worldview.

John 20:30-31 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Romans 1:18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

1. **The Truth of the Christian Worldview.**
2. **The Truth of the Gospel Message.**

Galatians 2:5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

- 1. The Truth of the Christian Worldview.**
- 2. The Truth of the Gospel Message.**
- 3. Jesus Christ is the Truth.**

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

- 1. The Truth of the Christian Worldview.**
- 2. The Truth of the Gospel Message.**
- 3. Jesus Christ is the Truth.**
- 4. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.**

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

5. God's Word is the Truth.

2 Samuel 7:28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

Psalms 119:142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

5. God's Word is the Truth.

6. Christians are to Believe the Truth.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

- 5. God's Word is the Truth.**
- 6. Christians are to Believe the Truth.**
- 7. Christians are to be Grounded in the Truth.**

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

2 Peter 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

- 5. God's Word is the Truth.**
- 6. Christians are to Believe the Truth.**
- 7. Christians are to be Grounded in the Truth.**
- 8. Christians are to Speak the Truth.**

Proverbs 8:7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

Zechariah 8:16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

9. Christians are to Teach the Truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

9. Christians are to Teach the Truth.

10. Christians are to Rejoice in the Truth.

1 Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

9. Christians are to Teach the Truth.

10. Christians are to Rejoice in the Truth.

11. Christians are to Live According to the Truth.

Psalm 25:5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

9. Christians are to Teach the Truth.

10. Christians are to Rejoice in the Truth.

11. Christians are to Live According to the Truth.

12. Christians are to Worship in Truth.

Psalm 145:18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

1. Truth

2. Obedience

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

- 1. Truth**
- 2. Obedience**
- 3. Love**
 - A. For God**

Love That Discerns

Loving God

Discernment Demonstrates our Love For God

1. God wants us to defend the Gospel by exposing lies.

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

Love That Discerns

Loving God

Discernment Demonstrates our Love For God

- 1. God wants us to defend the Gospel by exposing lies.**
- 2. We must identify the sources of error that may be influencing our lives or the lives of those we love.**

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- 1. God wants us to defend the Gospel by exposing lies.**
- 2. We must identify the sources of error that may be influencing our lives or the lives of those we love.**
- 3. God loves truth, and those who oppose God oppose His truth.**

2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

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- 4. False teachers must be exposed.**

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

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- 3. God loves truth, and those who oppose God oppose His truth.**
- 4. False teachers must be exposed.**
- 5. Christians are to avoid fellowship with false teachers.**

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Love That Discerns

Foundations of Discernment

- 1. Truth**
- 2. Obedience**
- 3. Love**
 - A. For God**
 - B. For Others**

Love That Discerns

Loving Others

Discernment Demonstrates our Love For Others

1. Love must be demonstrated with truth.

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Love That Discerns

Loving Others

Discernment Demonstrates our Love For Others

1. **Love must be demonstrated with truth.**
2. **We must avoid argumentation but demonstrate love, kindness and hope for change.**

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Love That Discerns

Loving Others

Discernment Demonstrates our Love For Others

- 1. Love must be demonstrated with truth.**
- 2. We must avoid argumentation but demonstrate love, kindness and hope for change.**
- 3. We need to listen carefully to what is said.**

Proverbs 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

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- 2. We must avoid argumentation but demonstrate love, kindness and hope for change.**
- 3. We need to listen carefully to what is said.**
- 4. We must respond with Scripture and not our own opinions.**

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

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Discernment Demonstrates our Love For Others

- 1. Love must be demonstrated with truth.**
- 2. We must avoid argumentation but demonstrate love, kindness and hope for change.**
- 3. We need to listen carefully to what is said.**
- 4. We must respond with Scripture and not our own opinions.**
- 5. We must display humility.**

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Love That Discerns

Armor of God

How does discernment help us?

1. It helps protect us from spiritual deception.

Ephesians 5:15-17 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Colossians 1:9-10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Love That Discerns

Armor of God

How does discernment help us?

- 1. It helps protect us from spiritual deception.**
- 2. It acts as an instrument of healing when accompanied by grace.**

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Love That Discerns

Armor of God

How does discernment help us?

- 1. It helps protect us from spiritual deception.**
- 2. It acts as an instrument of healing when accompanied by grace.**
- 3. It functions as a key to Christian freedom.**

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

John 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Love That Discerns

Armor of God

How does discernment help us?

- 1. It helps protect us from spiritual deception.**
- 2. It acts as an instrument of healing when accompanied by grace.**
- 3. It functions as a key to Christian freedom.**
- 4. It serves as a catalyst for spiritual growth and development.**

Proverbs 14:6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

