



Sermon series: Joy Full
Text: 1 John 4:1-6
Delivered: July 31st, 2022
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The Filter: The Joy of Discernment

Big Idea: Filter what you hear to produce pure truth which will give you full joy.

Get A _____ . (vs.1) [You cannot believe everything you hear]

Some may claim that it also takes an uncommon level of discernment to distinguish between truth and error. John disagrees! He wrote his letter to help believers – believers at all levels of maturity – distinguish between truth and error.

Why You Need A Filter. [What you _____ may not be _____] (vs. 1)

Jesus told His disciples, “They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves’ (Matt. 7:15). Peter wrote: “They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them” (2 Peter 2:1). It is our job. . .responsibility. . .mandate, then, to work at discerning what we’re hearing, from wherever we’re hearing it.

How The Filter Works. [Filter what you _____ through _____] (vs. 2-3, 5-6)

1. The C _____ of their F _____
2. The C _____ of their T _____.
3. The C _____ of their L _____.

What the Filter Produces. [V _____, C _____, and J _____] (vs. 4)

“You don’t have to be afraid of false teachers! You don’t have to be afraid of false doctrine. You belong to God and are part of His family. That belonging and experience is far greater than the wisdom of this world and the truth you have from the Spirit of God is greater than the falsehood you face!”

What’s the craziest thing you’ve ever heard spoken by someone? What’s the craziest thing you’ve heard from someone who claimed to be a Christian? Why did it stand out as “crazy?”

What is something you used to think was true, but have since changed your mind about? What helped you in discovering the truth about it and helped you change your belief about it?

What are some messages that either sound like truth or are coming from people who claim to be followers of Jesus that you think are NOT true and deceiving Christians today?



Jesus is the inseparable center of Christianity. Because of that, what are the most important truths to believe about Jesus?

Not too long ago a famous pastor of a very large church wrote a book that claimed the most important thing to believe about God is that He is love and that He doesn't want anyone to die and be separated from Him. So, God is allowing everyone to go to heaven when they die? Hell is not a reality. Is that true? If not, why not? Does it match up with what the Bible teaches?

John says that every follower of Jesus can tell the difference between what is really true and what is not? How confident do you feel in being able to do that? Does his giving you the three tests help? (What do they believe about Jesus? Does their teaching line up with the Bible? Does their character match their teaching?)

Read Acts 17:1-11. *What made the Berean believers stand out? What does that say to you when they examined what **PAUL** was saying to make sure it aligned with the rest of Scripture? How could that help you be able to better discern truth and error?*

How does knowing the truth help bring joy to our lives? How can your CARE group or faith community help you stand firm in your faith and maintain joy in the truth?

Further Resources

Bitesize Theology by Peter Jeffery

Confronting Christianity, by Rebecca McLaughlin

