

Series: Family Fellowship  
"Antichrist Alert" Pt. 2, # 9  
1 John 2:19, 22-23  
6-10-18 Sun AM

As we continue our exposition through the book of I John the author addresses the issue of false teachers or antichrists.

John wrote to protect the saints from those who would want to seduce them. Gnostics denied the humanity of Jesus (see 1:1).

**TT-** John exposes these false teachers and tells us how to detect them.

**I. They Attack Christ (v. 18).**

1. He Has a Time (v. 18).
2. He is a spirit of spiritual error (v. 22).
3. He is a deceiver.

**II. They Abandon the Church (2:19, 22-23).**

I believe the greatest dangers to the church are from within and not without. Because we know what those without want to do or how they attack us.

Antichrists come in to destroy and divide and carry their prey with them. Their departure will be painful and harm the church for having to deal with them.

Alistair Begg said, "There are some who share for a while our earthly company who do not share our heavenly birth."

Two thoughts about how they abandon the church:

1. They Desert the Fellowship (2:19).

Perseverance and continuation are proof of son-ship and true possession. There is a difference between professing and later proofing possession.

Defection from the fellowship gives evidence of a defective faith.

Note the contrast between "they" and "us" in verse 19. "They" appears 7 times and "us" appears 5 times. There is "us" and there is "them."

"They" do not last but left. "They went out and "we" stay. Their departure proved they were never really a part of us regardless of what they professed.

"Us" remains in the fellowship and perseveres. These affirm "eternal security" or "perseverance of the saints."

**Jude 1**, "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:"

**Baptist Faith and Message 2000 states**, “All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.”

1. They Desert the Fellowship (2:19).
2. They Deny the Faith (2:22-23).

They desert the fellowship because they deny the faith. They left the church because they left Christ first.

They deny the essentials, the fundamentals, what it takes to go to heaven. What is it we must believe if we are going to heaven?

- (1). The inerrant Scripture. God’s Word is God’s Word.
- (2). God as Creator.
- (3). Salvation by grace through faith
- (4). The doctrine of Christ.  
The humanity and deity of Christ.  
The creator and eternal Son.  
The sinlessness of Christ.  
The blood atonement.  
The death burial and resurrection of Jesus.  
The Son of God and Lord.  
The trinity one God in three persons.  
The Father and the Son are one.

We may know fully known the depth of these doctrines but we can’t deny them and call ourselves a Christian.

I John 4:3; 5:1

**Close with a few thoughts:**

1. Antichrists are false teachers but the rank and file are not antichrists. Antichrists have or have been associated with the church.
2. There is stricter judgment for those who knew the way and left than those who never knew.
3. There is a difference between differences of interpretations on the secondary doctrines and denying the essentials of the faith.

**Next week:** They Assault the Christian (2:20-21, 24-27).