

Theme: Believers must be prepared to resist unauthentic teachings that distort the Person and work of Jesus Christ and thus create a false Gospel.

## I. Intro - DaVinci Code

- A. A very popular book by Dan Brown (and then movie)
- B. Tried to say Christians originally were Gnostics until the Council of Nicea
- C. It could not even get the heresy of Gnosticism right!
- D. Who were these early heretics? Why are they Unauthentic? Does it matter today?

## II. UnAuthentic - An Antichrist Message

- A. John says there are deceivers  
Many **deceivers**, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the **deceiver** and the antichrist. <sup>2</sup> John 1:7
  - 1. There are deceivers - in fact, many deceivers
  - 2. They are going out, actively working
  - 3. If there is authentic truth, then there will also be that which is unauthentic.
- B. They are unauthentic because their teaching is false  
Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the **teaching** of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the **teaching** has both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this **teaching**, do not take him into your house or welcome him. <sup>2</sup> John 1:9–10
  - 1. Teaching - 3x in these verses

- 2. Our culture thinks that belief and emotion determine authenticity, but only that which is objectively true is authentic.
- 3. These teachers may sincerely believe their message - but they are sincerely wrong.
- 4. Despite their sincerity, they are actually UnAuthentic

### C. This is a very serious error

Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. <sup>8</sup>Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. <sup>9</sup> Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. <sup>2</sup> Jo 1:7–9

- 1. John refers to these deceivers as the antichrist
- 2. He warns that taking in their teaching can take away our reward
- 3. He says that this teaching cuts one off from God
- 4. This is a VERY serious error being discussed

## III. UnAuthentic - The Antichrist and His 'Gospel'

- A. UnAuthentic - these people are the Antichrist  
Many deceivers, who **do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh**, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the **antichrist**. <sup>2</sup> John 1:7
  - 1. John says these teachers are the antichrist!
  - 2. They deny Jesus Christ has come in the flesh

3. They have gone out into the world
4. John is the only writer to mention the antichrist (5x)  
Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have come. This is how we know it is the last hour... <sup>22</sup> Who is the liar? It is **the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist** — he denies the Father and the Son. 1 John 2:18, 22
  - a. Antichrist, many antichrists, antichrist
  - b. Denies Jesus is the Christ - all of these are antichrist  
Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many **false prophets have gone out into the world.** <sup>2</sup> This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: **Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.** This is the spirit of the **antichrist**, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 1 John 4:1–3
  - c. False prophets gone out into the world, antichrist
  - d. Denies that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
  - e. Same basic points as 2 John 7

5. Understanding the antichrist and his teaching
  - a. The antichrist is a deceiver and false prophet teaching an unauthentic message
  - b. The primary emphasis is not a single individual wielding oppressive political power trying to coerce believers, but rather a group of people who seduce by a deceitful, false message

- c. The central issue is the Person and work of Jesus Christ, the God-Man truly come in the flesh

- B. Understanding these antichrists and their 'Gospel'
  1. This group is an early form of Gnosticism
  2. The NT is full of references to this false teaching
    - a. 1 Corinth. 6 & 7; Colossians 2:19-22; 1 Tim. 4:1-6
    - b. John; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John; Revelation 2-3
  3. The key points of Gnostic teaching
    - a. Physical matter was inherently evil
    - b. Therefore Jesus could not be truly, fully human
    - c. They denied the Incarnation - the God-Man (do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh)
    - d. This changed their understanding of redemption
  4. Comparing Christianity and this antichrist group (Table at end of this document)
  5. This is not a difference of minor details - it is a completely different faith and a different Gospel!

#### IV. Applying the Authentic Faith

- A. Do I see the ever-present danger of heresy?
  1. This is not just small disagreements - it is the heart of the faith, a heresy
  2. We see evidence of this heresy in many different churches in the NT
  3. The Church struggled with Gnosticism for centuries

4. Gnosticism is alive and well today!
  - a. Transhumanism - digital humanity
  - b. Denying our bodies - 'I was born in the wrong body'
  - c. My sexual behavior is ok with God (even when it clearly contradicts His Word)
5. Gnosticism infects even orthodox Christians
  - a. 'I am a spirit, I have a soul, I live in a body - Gnosticism!
  - b. An ethereal, spiritual heaven rather than a very physical new heavens and new earth - Gnosticism!
6. Gnosticism is still a deadly deceit we must reject!

- c. This is why we must study to KNOW the faith once for all delivered to God's people so that we recognize error quickly
- d. Experts learn to authentic so that any unauthentic fakes are clear
3. Am I devoted to studying and growing in the faith?
  - a. Deceitful ideas are pressed upon us day and night
  - b. They will try to say you can make Christianity fit with this - but it can not
  - c. We must study and meditate upon God's Word to counteract this
  - d. I urge you - dig into God's Word to know the true faith!

## B. Standing against the Gnostic heresy today

1. We must not support or help heresy  
If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. <sup>11</sup> Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work. <sup>2</sup> John 1:10–11
  - a. Don't welcome, bring into house
  - b. Not saying shun them - do not give their teaching a place in the church
  - c. We must clearly demarcate the true faith from heresy
2. We must know the true faith to be able to identify heresy
  - a. These groups try to infiltrate the true Church
  - b. They made inroads in NT times, and they have been trying ever since

## C. The Authentic Table of the Lord

1. At this Table, we confess the Authentic Faith
2. At this Table, we remember the flesh of Jesus was broken for our sins
3. At this Table, we remember His bodily life, death, burial, and resurrection - the Authentic faith

### UnAuthentic

2 John 7-11  
January 31, 2021  
Communion

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Teaching keywords: False teaching and heresy; Christology; creation; humanity; redemption; eschatology

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. <sup>8</sup> Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. <sup>9</sup> Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. <sup>11</sup> Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work. 2 John 1:7–11

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Antichrist Gnosticism</b>	<b>Orthodox Christianity</b>
Creation	Matter/creation is evil	Matter/creation is inherently good
Fall	Being created as flesh	Spiritual and physical disobedience
Jesus Christ	Truly God but only appeared to be human	Truly, fully God and truly, fully human - God took human flesh and our whole nature except sin
Redemption	Jesus taught secret knowledge. The Christ (Anointing Spirit) left Jesus on the cross; Jesus never died and lives spiritually	Jesus physically died to pay for our sin and was literally, physically resurrected to secure salvation
Justification	Acquiring secret knowledge (beyond apostles and God's written Word)	Faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus
Sanctification	Either mistreat the body (Colossians 2) or say bodily actions do not matter (1 Corinthians 6)	The Spirit is working to sanctify us in soul and body
Consummation /Glorification	Living spiritually without a physical body	Living eternally in a resurrected body