

Title : Fake
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Text : 1 John 2

Introduction

Life is full of fakes. From imitation designer items, pirated electronic gadgets, to counterfeit money.

Content

Our spiritual life is no different. We can easily buy into a false form of spirituality. The Apostle John knows about fakes. 60 years after the Apostle John heard what Jesus said in John 3:16 & John 10:10, John warned the Church of the possibility that believers were not experiencing the abundant life.

1 John was written as a response to the deceptions that were permeating the Church. Believers were buying into lies including that which exerts that Christ did not have a physical body and that his death never removed sins.

The believers needed a wake up call. They needed to be tested.

Just like there are ways to test or detect counterfeit notes.



- 1) The security thread;
- 2) The Braille feature;
- 3) The holographic design;
- 4) The ink on the King's picture;
- 5) The watermark of the King



Likewise, Paul lists 3 tests:

1.The Test Of Obedience (vs 3 - 6)

Vs 3-6 says - ²⁻³Here's how we can be sure that we know God in the right way: Keep his commandments. ⁴⁻⁶If someone claims, "I know him well!" but doesn't keep his commandments, he's obviously a liar. His life doesn't match his words. But the one who keeps God's word is the person in whom we see God's mature love. This is the only way to be sure we're in God. Anyone who claims to be intimate with God ought to live the same kind of life Jesus lived.

The fake talks & impresses. The genuine obeys, & does what God says. The genuine keeps God's Word.

We find substitute when we do not become changed from the inside out. We only change the outside.

2.The Test of Love (vs 9 - 11)

Vs 9 - 11 Anyone who claims to live in God's light and hates a brother or sister is still in the dark. It's the person who loves brother and sister who dwells in God's light and doesn't block the light from others. But whoever hates is still in the dark, stumbles around in the dark, doesn't know which end is up, blinded by the darkness.

The fake hates people.

The genuine loves people.

We become legalistic when love is lacking.

3.The Test Of Allegiance (vs 15 - 17)

Vs 15 - 17 Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world –wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important –has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out – but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

The fake embraces the world.

The genuine forsakes the world.

If we are not transformed, we will conform.

Conclusion

John summarises in 1 John 2 : 24 - 29 :

²⁴⁻²⁵Stay with what you heard from the beginning, the original message. Let it sink into your life. If what you heard from the beginning lives deeply in you, you will live deeply in both Son and Father. This is exactly what Christ promised: eternal life, real life!

²⁶⁻²⁷I've written to warn you about those who are trying to deceive you. But they're no match for what is embedded deeply within you – Christ's anointing, no less! You don't need any of their so-called teaching. Christ's anointing teaches you the truth on everything you need to know about yourself and him, uncontaminated by a single lie. Live deeply in what you were taught.

²⁸And now, children, stay with Christ. Live deeply in Christ. Then we'll be ready for him when he appears, ready to receive him with open arms, with no cause for red-faced guilt or lame excuses when he arrives.

²⁹Once you're convinced that he is right and righteous, you'll recognize that all who practice righteousness are God's true children.

Stay with the original message. Let it sink into your life. Live deeply in Christ.

How does the genuine look like?

Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard - things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.