

WOLVES IN SHEPHERD'S CLOTHING

1 JOHN 2:18-25

Sermon Application Study

24th of May, 2026

Passage: 1 John 2: 18-25

1. The sermon described discernment as 'chemotherapy for bad ideas' - protecting the church whilst removing cancerous false teaching. But how can Christians practise discernment without becoming harsh toward others?
2. John says believers have been 'anointed by the Holy One' (v.20) and therefore know the truth. How should Christians balance confidence in the Holy Spirit's guidance with personal humility towards our own capacity for self-delusion?
3. How does accountability to the wider church play into discernment; what is the significance of false teachers 'going out from us' (v.19)?
4. What cultural influences today most tempt Christians to redefine or soften who Jesus is?

Bridge Passages (for further study): Mathew 7: 15-23

For me:

1. John repeatedly calls believers to 'abide' in what they heard from the beginning. What habits, influences or distractions in your own life are helping or hindering your ability to remain rooted in Christ and the gospel?
2. The sermon suggested that false teaching often appeals to things we already want culturally. Are there areas where you are tempted to reshape Jesus around your preferences, comfort, politics, identity or desires?

Prayer Focus

Thank the Holy Spirit for His anointing so that we may know the truth.

Ask for God's guidance as we abide in Him and discern truth.

For the Mission:

How does this section of 1 John equip us to boldly engage with false teaching? Does it engender confidence or timidity?