

Study Guide - Discernment – 1

The Discerner

Outline

Who is responsible?

1. False teachers are responsible for those they deceive Rev 2:22
2. But each one is responsible for themselves Rev 2:23
3. Church is responsible for harbouring false teachers Rev 2:20

Spiritual Attributes of the Discerner

1. Desire for and commitment to truth
2. Integrity
3. Willingness to change
4. Life of obedience
5. Humility
6. Maturity - Heb 5:12-14

He Must Know the Truth

1. Knowing the truth rather than knowing the error
2. Solid spiritual and doctrinal foundations
3. If not – find a trustworthy pastor who can help.
4. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Hosea 4:6
5. Know your place, gifting and calling.

Role of the Spirit

1. Listen to the voice of the Spirit:
However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth (John 16:13)
Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left. (Isaiah 30:21)
2. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)

Study Questions - The Discerner

Purpose: How to discern truth from error.

Who is responsible?

In the past, who have you thought of as those who are “responsible” for guarding and finding truth in the life of a believer?

What do the Scriptures say in Revelation 2:20-23 about this subject?

Spiritual Attributes of the Discerner

How can we begin to be a discerner?

How can we foster and grow in our desire and commitment to truth?

How important is my heart attitude in order to avoid or correct a prejudicial, or a previously owned false teaching in my mind?

What if there is a cost I must pay for having a sincere commitment to truth?

Am I willing to be committed to growing in obedience, and changing my thinking if I needed in order to come into alignment with God’s truth? Ask this question - do I fall back my own ideas by saying ‘but I was raised to believe’ instead of ‘I must bend to the truth revealed in God’s Word.’

According to God’s Word, what blocks “willingness” and stops the normal route of growing in maturity? What sinful attitudes block my desire for truth and are actually at odds with the spiritual attributes of the discerner?

He Must Know the Truth

Why would some seem to major in error instead of concentrating firstly on knowing the truth?

What motivates me to seek after and know the truth? Have I submitted to the Lord even in the details – to get it my truth “house” in order? Do I realize that the pursuit of the truth is a long series of many steps that takes a lifelong commitment to that pursuit? Am I willing to ask the Lord to make me a discerner who has sincere integrity in this pursuit?

Have you asked the question, “what is my gifting, calling, and place?”

Are you willing to accept and submit to God’s calling on your life?

Can you think soberly about yourself according to Romans 12:3?

Have you sought help in your pursuit of truth in a trustworthy pastor? If not why?

Role of the Spirit

Do you tend to think of discerning truth as a purely academic pursuit?

Are you actually sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit?

What stops me from being led into all truth by the Holy Spirit?

In order to obey the truth I have heard today in this teaching, what steps are the Lord leading me to take to be a real discerner of truth?