

The spirit of antichrist

Of course John's first letter starts similarly as his Gospel, "**That which was from the beginning**, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of **the Word of life**" (1Jo 1:1), "**In the beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jhn 1:1). This is because he wrote his letter in reference to his Gospel he had written, "I write unto you" (2:12, 13), "I have written unto you" (2:14).

John's letter was to reaffirm and reinforce what he had written in his Gospel—what Jesus Christ taught about Himself and about His Father: "God sent **his only begotten Son** into the world, that we might live through him" (1Jo 4:9), "For God so loved the world, that he gave **his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jhn 3:16), "**No man hath seen God at any time**. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" (1Jo 4:12), "**No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son**, which is in the bosom of the Father, **he hath declared him**" (Jhn 1:18).

"**He that is not with me is against me**; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth" (Mat 12:30; Luk 11:23). Those against Christ are antichrists. And since there were already many antichrists in the early church, "even now are there many antichrists" (1Jo 2:18), they must be far more prevalent today.

Antichrists are against what Jesus taught about His Father and about Himself: "Who is a liar but he that **denieth that Jesus is the Christ?** He is antichrist, that **denieth the Father and the Son**" (1Jo 2:22); And every spirit that **confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist" (1Jo 4:3); "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who **confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2Jo 1:7).

John's Gospel recorded what Jesus taught: that He was literally begotten by God "his only begotten Son" (Jhn 3:16), that God is His Father "but said also that God was his Father" (Jhn 5:18), that He is the Son of God "I said, I am the Son of God" (Jhn 10:36), that He came from heaven "I came down from heaven" (Jhn 6:38), that He was the Son of a human "the Son of man" (Jhn 1:51), that His Father is the only

true God "thee the only true God" (Jhn 17:3), and that His Father is His God "my God, and your God" (Jhn 20:17).

John taught in his letter, "And every spirit that **confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist" (1Jo 4:3), then defined it as "God sent his **only begotten Son** into the world" (1Jo 4:9). That He "is come in the flesh" is that God sent His only begotten Son in the flesh. And this is according to what the Son of God taught about Himself that John had written, "For God so loved the world, that **he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth [trusts] in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jhn 3:16), "he that believeth [trusts] not is condemned already, because he hath not **believed [trusted] in the name of the only begotten Son of God**" (Jhn 3:18).

However, this isn't what Trinitarianism confesses about the Son of God's incarnation. It's not meant "begotten Son" by "is come in the flesh." Could it just be an honest mistake? If so, then those that teach it simply need to begin teaching it right. But is it reasonable to consider that it's a mistake when it's being taught by highly educated professors, scholars, and theologians in seminary? And how can tens of thousands of ministers with Masters and Doctorate degrees all make the same mistake about John 3:16?

It seems the best explanation is that they don't just need to study a little more to get their theology straightened out. According to John and Paul both, a different teaching about Jesus Christ indicates a spirit in them that's not from God, "And every **spirit** that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh **is not of God**: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist" (1Jo 4:3), "For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*" (2Co 11:4).

However, we don't have to fear them because He that's in us is greater than he that's in them, "**Ye are of God**, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world**" (1Jo 4:4). The Greater One is in us by God's Breath from our Advocate seated at His right hand, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have **an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**" (1Jo 2:1).