



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 2:19

False Teachers Leave the Church

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Chiastic Structure

A They went out from us
 B They did not really belong to us
 B' If they belonged to us
 A' They would have remained with us

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The Antichrists Leave the Church

1John 2:19a (ESV)
 They went out from us . . .

- Antichrists have a false doctrine of Christ
- “Went out” is aorist active in the Greek: they chose to leave
- “From us” is *ex he_m_o_n* in the Greek (4 times)
- They left a true, apostolic fellowship (John)
- “went out” is also in John 13:30 about Judas

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The Secessionists Were Not Truly Christians

John 2:19b (ESV)

But they were not of us . . .

- The context shows that they had a defective doctrine of Christ
- The apostle John emphasizes the deity and humanity of Christ
- This fellowship that they left was truly apostolic because of its association with John

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They Left the Teachings of Christ and His Apostles

1John 2:19c (ESV)

for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us . . .

- “if” is a 2nd class conditional (contrary to fact)
- 1John 4:1-6 addresses this issue
- “Stayed” is *meno_* “stayed put” common in John
- True Christians love the teachings of Christ and His apostles

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They Depart and the Church is Taught and Purified

1John 2:19d (ESV)

But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

- The clause starts “but in order that” (*hina* Greek)
- “*hina*” shows that this is a purpose clause – God’s purposes go forward even in this division
- “Become plain” is from *phaneroo_* manifested
- Manifested is a divine passive (by God)
- We learn and appreciate the doctrine of Christ

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Implications and Applications

- We must know and affirm the doctrine of Christ
- Until we know the outcome we must patiently help those going astray
- Testing brings clarity to what and who is approved

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Know and Affirm the Doctrine of Christ

2John 1:7, 9 (NASB)

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. . . . Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

- John strongly taught the doctrine of Christ
- See John 1:1-3; 1John 1:1-3

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Help Those Going Astray

2Timothy 2:24, 25a (NASB)

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition...

- These have not yet left for a different Christ
- Elders are not to be pugnacious (1Tim. 3:3)
- We must be willing and able to teach the truth
- Being angry and resentful does not help anyone learn

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God May Grant Repentance

2Timothy 2:25b, 26 (NASB)

if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

- We never know who is going to learn and repent
- The way out of bondage is repentance and the embracing of the truth
- "Repentance is the gift of God
- This is true, spiritual warfare

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Testing Reveals the Approved

2Timothy 2:15 (NASB)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

1Corinthians 11:19 (NASB)

For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

- Approved is "dokimos"
- God tests our work now to see if it will stand
- Must is "dei" i.e., divine purpose

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