

How to Spot a False Teacher a Mile Away

Four things you need to know about false teachers – 2 Peter 2:10-17

Main Idea: False teachers manifest four distinctive patterns of behavior.

1. CLARIFICATION – Who are the false teachers?

- A. False teachers of the first century.
 - 1. They entered the church masquerading as believers.
 - 2. They did two things: they denied Christ's return and encouraged immorality.
 - 3. Result – Christians stopped feeling any sort of urgency about their faith.
- B. False teachers of the 21st century.
 - 1. Our culture is different today because of the Internet and mass media.
 - 2. There are false teachers in the church and F.T.s outside, seeking to influence believers.
 - 3. Result – Christians stop feeling any sort of urgency about their faith.

2. FIRST MARK – False teachers reject authority. 2 Peter 2:10-13

- A. Statement – False teachers *despise* authority. 2:10
 - 1. God has set up an authority structure in this world.
 - 2. But attitudes toward authority in our day are very negative. “Do your own thing.”
 - 3. F.T.s did this in a flagrant way, being “daring and self-willed.” (Family Guy; Medici)
- B. Example – These false teachers so despise authority, they insult demons. 2:10c-11
 - 1. Historical situation – To show they weren't serving Satan, they would insult him.
 - 2. Reality – They had no idea the power they were dealing with.
- C. End – They are like wild animals destined for destruction. 2:12-13a

3. SECOND MARK – False teachers are addicted to pleasure. 2 Peter 2:13b-14

- A. False teachers display a progressive erosion of healthy boundaries. 2:13b
 - 1. In the 1st century, most people acted respectfully by day and caroused by night.
 - 2. The false teachers had no concern for moral boundaries.
- B. False teachers fantasize continually about sex in the church. (“Revel, eyes & heart”) 2:13c-14a
- C. False teachers entice the unsuspecting into wrong relationships. 2:14b
 - 1. The word entice is a fishing term.
 - 2. We see this kind of sexual enticement going on in the church and our schools.
 - 3. The enticement is compounded by Internet pornography.
- D. False teachers are headed for a tragic future. 2:14c

4. THIRD MARK – False teachers love wealth and fame. 2 Peter 2:15-17

- A. False teachers go the way of Balaam. 2:15-16
- B. False teachers today are going the same way. They want acceptance at the expense of truth.
- C. Peter describes the destiny of false teachers. They are springs without water and mists in a storm.

5. FOURTH MARK – False teachers leave a legacy of pain. 2 Peter 2:18-22

- A. False teachers target the immature. 2:20
- B. False lure the immature back into sin. 2:18-19
- C. False teachers increase their pain and their “convert's” pain. 2:21-22