

Recognizing False Teachers 2Peter 2

God's people always been plagued with problem of false teachers.

Elijah face 450 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel **1Kings 18**

Micaiah refuted word of 400 of Ahab's "yes men" **1Kings 22**

Now no different

NTestament abundantly warns false teachers will arise in abundance today. - **2Timothy 4:3-4**

One problem today is that we are not being sufficiently warned about false teachers even in the Lord's church

Bible not only warns us false teachers will come, but tells us how to recognize them. Look at several ways to recognize false teachers

They come in unaware

Ever know teacher of error came into congregation and admitted he was a false teacher and therefore not to be listened to?

The manner in which they come - **Jude 4; 2Peter 2:1; Matthew 7:15**

Oh, how crucial this point is!

Brethren are not on as close guard as they should be - **1John 4:1**

Naiveness will destroy a congregation; False teachers will have a field day

False teachers will come, and secretly; we are foolish if we do not believe it can and will happen in "our" fellowship - **1Peter 5:8**

They speak enticing words

If a false teacher sounded like one, no one would listen

His speech is beautiful, he sounds good, he is persuasive, he is very gifted - **Jude 16; 2Peter 2:3**

Deceives hearts of the "simple" (Gk. akakon, which Thayer defines as "fearing no evil from others, distrusting no one") - **Romans 16:18**

Like poor sheep led to the slaughter, the flock follows the wolf, because he has persuaded them - **Colossians 2:4**

They are outwardly beautiful

Again, if the false teacher lived a riotous life, he would gain no real religious following

Life appears to have so many virtues people say, "Oh, he is such a kind, humble, sincere man.

Surely he couldn't be a false teacher!" - **Colossians 2:18; Matthew 7:15-16**

Determine false teacher by teaching, not necessarily by life, message is not from Bible, it matters not how nice guy he is, still false teacher

Because of love for his soul, our responsibility is to set him straight, if possible - **Acts 18:24-26**

Regardless how good he may seem, if he won't repent, he must be marked, avoided and withdrawn from - **Romans 16:17; 1Timothy 6:3-5; 2Corinthians 11:14-15; Galatians 1:8-9**

They tend only to gratify the flesh

Not only do the false teachers satisfy their own desires - **Romans 16:18; 2Peter 2:3; Colossians 2:23**

Seems to indicate that their teaching satisfies the flesh of man more than it fills his spiritual needs.

Barnes' "There is nothing to ennoble and elevate the soul, the only effects is to satisfy or please the flesh," (Barnes' notes, Col pg 272)

Application: Gymnasiums, "multi-purpose" buildings, food, fun, frolic; satisfying of the flesh

We have been so confused that we do not know what "the church", "the spiritual institution of God" is - **Ezekiel 22:26**

Church now FOR social and recreational activities instead of a place for work and service

We lose the young because false teachers teach by action, example, and "program", that the church exists to serve them; that the church is social, and that's what they will always want

May we be given the wisdom to see through this flesh - satisfying "brand" of Christianity

They will have many followers

Few things the Bible teaches is more tragic - **2Peter 2:2; Acts 20:30**

They look and sound so good; preach what people want to hear, and provide what people want

Is it surprising that the churches with the pleasing message and gymnasiums are usually very large?

Has God really spoken to Joel Osteen and other men?

Bible tells us how to recognize and avoid them. Wise up and be able to recognize these teachers of error. - **Galatians 1:6-12**

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