

False Teachers and Prophets

Matthew 7:15-20

False prophets might disguise as sheep (within the church, like people mentioned in Jude 4 – even Satan comes as an angel of light in 2 Cor 11:14). But we'll recognize them by their fruits (Matthew 12:33). False prophets don't bear fruit keeping up with **repentance**" (Matthew 3:8). Some church leaders today, when they get called out or some of their errors are brought to their attention, won't admit their wrong, but make excuses or justify themselves. Beware!

Matthew 16:12 / Luke 12:1

Beware of the teachings (**false doctrines**) and **hypocrisy** of pharisees and Sadducees and Herodians. False teachers can be hypocrites and have unbiblical views/doctrines (*teachings of demons* – 1 Tim 4:1)

Luke 11:37-54 / Matthew 23 Woes to Lawyers, Sadducees and Pharisees

False prophets like their **position** and **glory from men**. **Pride** is their necklace (Psalm 73:6). They might be **prosperous** as well in a worldly way (Psalm 73:3). They have received their reward (Matt 6:2, 23:5)

Matthew 24:24

False Christs and false prophets will arise. They will also do **great signs** and **wonders** and it would attract even the elects (Pharaoh's magicians - Exodus 8:7). It is probably fair to **beware of people who elevate spiritual experiences and signs over the truth of the gospel**. (the 2nd Beast in Rev 13:13-15)

Deuteronomy 13:1–5 notes that the test of a true prophet is not his ability to perform signs and wonders; rather, true prophets are identified by their orthodoxy. In other words, no matter how convincing the signs and wonders of a professed prophet or teacher may be, that person must be rejected if he teaches heresy (ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/false-signs-and-wonders)

Galatians 1:6-9 No other gospel

False prophets breed **confusion and distort the Gospel of Christ** – Paul says they are accursed. The Gospel is essential, above all things. It is the power of God to salvation (Rom 1:16). Distorting and rejecting it is a clear sign of not being born again and therefore condemnation.

2 Thess 2:1-12 The Man of Lawlessness

"The man of lawlessness **opposes and exalts himself** against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, **proclaiming himself to be God**". Beware of those that

condone being worshipped. The coming of the lawless one is by the **activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders**. Again, beware of the trap of signs and wonders!

1 Tim 1:3-7 Warning against false teachers

False teachers devote themselves to **myths and endless genealogies**, which **promote speculations** rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. Instead of orthodox teachings, they stress things that are tangents, rambling about things that don't help the hearers and confuses them, so to change their focus of the people from the cross of Christ and the faith.

1 Tim 4:1-5 People will be deceived

These are the people that have given ear to those false teachers mentioned above: **liars** whose **consciences are seared** (forbid marriage, food. Things God didn't forbid)

1 Tim 6:3-10 False teachers and true contentment

They don't agree with Jesus words and sound doctrine. They have an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who imagine that godliness is **a means of gain**. They use "godliness" to get wealthy. **They love money**. Beware of those who always want more material things and are **never content** with what they have !

2 Tim 3:1-9 Godlessness in the last days

For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. **Avoid such people!**

2 peter 2 False prophets and teachers

They bring **heresies**, **deny Jesus** and are **greedy to exploit their audience**. They are **sensual**, wanting to please their senses. They **indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority**. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones. They have eyes full of adultery insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!

1 John 2:18-27

They went out from us, but they were not of us: They could start from legitimate churches. Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, **he who denies the Father and the Son**.

Jude 3-16

They pervert the grace of our God into **sensuality** and **deny our only Master and Lord**, Jesus Christ. They **rely on their dreams**, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. Their dreams and **spiritual 'encounters' are elevated over Scripture**.

These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.