

Know and Do—Going Deeper, week 8: “Recognizing False Teachers” (know portion)

Seven kinds of false teachers

1. _____
 - “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.” —2 Peter 2:1

2. _____
 - “If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.” —1 Timothy 6:3-5

3. _____
 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”—1 John 4:1

4. _____
 - “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” —Jude 4

5. _____
 - ‘In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.’ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” —Jude 18–21

6. _____
- “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” —2 Timothy 4:3–4

7. _____
- “charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.” —1 Timothy 1:3–4

1. Can you think of a time you were exposed to false teaching? How did you figure out it was false?
2. What is the difference between heresy and a simple doctrinal disagreement?
3. How do you think a charlatan makes his/her way into a position of leadership in the church?
4. What would you say to someone that believes God still provides new, prophetic revelation today?
5. How can we recognize that abuse is possible in churches while also affirming the overall goodness of Christ's church? How would you explain these ideas to a skeptic?
6. Are there ever good reasons for a person to intentionally divide a congregation through teaching/preaching? What wrong reasons might someone have for such teaching/preaching?
7. What kinds of things might someone preach to "tickle the ears" of listeners?
8. Why is speculative preaching dangerous?
9. What will you do to protect yourself from false teaching?