

FALSE DOCTRINES/TEACHINGS

WHAT CONSTITUTES A FALSE DOCTRINE?

1. Perverting the Gospel: Galatians 1:6, 7

What was being taught was in order to be saved; Gentile believers had to follow Jewish laws and customs, especially circumcision. Faith in Christ was not enough. This undermines the fact that salvation is a gift, not a reward for certain deeds. Beware of anyone who says that you need something more than simple faith in Christ to be saved. (See also Galatians 3:1-5)

1 John 4:1-6

Do not believe every spirit: test them. This means if you question what you hear, go to God's Word to see what is said and if it matches what they say. Other ways to test:

- a. Their commitment to the body of believers: 1 John 2:19
- b. Their life style: 1 John 3:23, 24
- c. What they believe about Christ

2. Satanic Deception: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Some will come masqueraded as something they are not. They will "smooth talk" and entice people away. Satan will disguise himself as "an angel of light". He is a deceiver and will use others to carry out his enticements away from the truth.

CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE

1. Avoid: Romans 16:17, 18

Those who bring dissensions (false doctrines would be one means). Those who bring traps, snares that are contrary to God's Word.

2. Test: 1 John 4:1

Mentioned previously.

3. Detest: Jude 23

Hate the sin (garment spotted by the flesh). Their conduct to be regarded as loathsome and contagious.

OTHER REFERENCES PERTAINING TO FALSE DOCTRINES

Matthew 7:15-23

Beware of false prophets (Matthew 24:11; 24)

Wolves in sheep's clothing.

You will know them by their fruits.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

Warning that in the last days some would turn away because they listen to deceitful spirits.

Acts 20:28-30

A warning to elders (overseers)

As shepherds: be on the look-out for “wolves” coming into the flock (sheep-fold)

2 Timothy 4:2-4

Preach: proclaim as a herald the message

Amazing that Paul even saw the time coming when people will not hear the practical truths of the Gospel. We already see people shunning any truth and “running after” what is pleasing to their ears.

Titus 1:9-14

An overseer (leader) especially (even a parent) must hold firmly to the Word of God and know themselves what God’s Word teaches in order to know false doctrine when it comes in and to refute those who contradict it.

2 John 9-11

A warning to those who once held to the Word of God but no longer continues in it (turned aside to something else). One should not even welcome into your fellowship one who teaches/believes contrary to God’s Word.

Look at 2 Peter Chapter 2

Proverbs 16:25 (also Proverbs 14:12)

Compare the above references with Proverbs 14:2.

Mark 13:21-23

A Warning from Jesus: There will be those who come and try to seduce people away. Don’t listen! Do not believe! See also Matthew 24:5; 23-25 Luke 21:8

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

Colossians 2:8

Warning from Paul: against any philosophy of life based only on human ideas and experiences. He is condemning any teaching that credits humanity, not Christ, with being the answer to life’s problems. That becomes a false religion. There are many man-made approaches to life’s problems that totally disregard God.