

# Identifying A False Teacher

## 2 Peter 2:10b-22

### 1. Defined Character Traits Vs.10b-13a

When we are faced with a teaching that we are not sure about, Peter explains that a careful look at that person's lifestyle will help determine if a teacher is false or authentic.

A false teacher will present themselves as spiritual but confuse the thrill of animal like appetites for the presence of the Holy Spirit, as they are recklessly and determined to have their own way.

### 2. Driven By Pleasure vs. 13b-16

Peter warns the church that a false teacher is driven by pleasure rather than living by God's Word; a pleasure desire that is displayed for all to see that will never be satisfied with the goal to have others follow him or her.

### 3. Deceitful Entangling Words Vs. 17-22

Peter warns followers of Christ to be cautious, as a false teacher's words will lure those away who are not matured in Christ. Their appealing words that promise freedom will cause a follower of Christ to be trapped in bondage and will become worse off than they were before they came to Christ.

### Conclusion:

Its not a matter of if, but when a false teaching has been communicated to a follower of Christ, he or she can identify a false teaching by the teacher's lived out character traits, driven by pleasure rather than God's Word, and their deceitful words will reveal a way of freedom that is contrary to the gospel which will entangle someone worse off than they were before that person came to Christ.

### Reflection:

If you have placed your faith in Jesus, God has set you free. Whatever you chased after before you were a believer, you should not chase after anymore.

- Did you chase after popularity and praise from people? Do not become entangled again.
- Did you chase after worldly achievements, promotions, and awards? Do not become entangled again.
- Did you chase after money and riches? Do not become entangled again.

Take some time to praise God for the freedom He has given you to freely live for Christ. Next, transition to praying for yourself and others to keep our eyes on Christ and to not be swayed by deceiving words.

### Questions:

- 1) How can you help ensure that you and others are not deceived by a false teacher who claims to be speaking truth?
- 2) If someone you know moves to a new area and begins attending a church in that area, what advice would you give them to make sure the pastor and their leadership are reliable teachers for the gospel?