

Living Amidst False Teachers

Jude 1:17-19

Jude 1:17-19 (NASB)

¹⁷ “But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁸ that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”

¹⁹ **These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.”**

We all know how dangerous incorrect teaching can be in our Christian walk. Today, we will be looking at ways to identify false teachers. This will help us be prepared for the things Satan might send our way.

First, false teachers are mockers. That is, they attack or attempt to discredit the Word of God or the church. When such a message is presented passionately and intelligently, even sincere people can get caught up in anti-church sentiment and find themselves doubting the truth of Scripture.

Second, false teachers will follow after their own lusts. For these people, the interpretation of Scripture becomes a matter of selective beliefs. They arrange their theology to justify their sinful habits and desires.

Third, false teachers are divisive. They try to come across as superior to their listeners by claiming an experience that elevates them to a “higher level,” or by professing a more advanced spirituality that others could never hope to achieve.

Fourth, false teachers are worldly-minded. They are not interested in the true teaching of God’s Word but are focused on what they can achieve, how many people will follow them, or how much they can earn through their teaching.

True Spirit-led teachers avoid these traps and recognize that two important keys are humility and unity with the listener ([Philippians 2:1-4](#)).

Philippians 2:1-4 (NASB)

¹ “Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

³ **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;**

⁴ **do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”**

And when receiving instruction, a wise believer will pray for the Holy Spirit’s discernment in order to distinguish truth from error ([Philippians 1:9-10](#)).

Philippians 1:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

¹⁰ **so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.”**