

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A FALSE (OR FAITHFUL) TEACHER (PT. 1)

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16 (ESV)

A spectrum of false teaching:

- False teaching: a serious misrepresentation of God's Word that would invite confusion or _____
- Heresy: a persistent _____ of essential doctrines of Christianity.

You can recognize a false teacher by answering five questions about their message:

1. Are they making a good faith effort to _____ the _____?

a. False teachers often rely on...

- _____ revelations from God,
- _____ explanations of the Bible,
- Common sense,
- Or _____ intuitions.

b. Faithful teachers aim to preach the truths expressed in Scripture by Jesus, the Prophets, and Apostles. They _____ with and _____ upon Scripture.

2. Are they tirelessly communicating the _____ of Jesus Christ?

a. Faithful teachers emphasize the _____ and _____ of Christ's life, death, resurrection, ascension, and return.

b. Faithful teachers are eager for people to _____ and _____ that good news.

3. Is their message _____ and _____ in the right ways?

a. False teachers...

i. Approve and speak inclusively of _____ that God opposes (2 Peter 2:2) and

ii. Exclude people, based upon outward appearance, including _____ (Galatians 2:4-6).

b. True teachers...

i. Recognize the exclusivity of Christ: _____ comes only through Him!

ii. Inclusively invite all people groups to believe and _____.

4. Does God validate their message with His _____ in the most _____ ways?

a. While God is _____ to do visible, tangible miracles, they are not a sure-fire validation of a teacher.

b. The clearest miraculous validation of the message is faith, repentance, and _____ lives.

5. Is their message _____ by the unbelieving world?

a. _____, a false message will be embraced by those who reject Christ.

b. But the true message of the Gospel will _____ be loved and spread by those who reject Christ.