

1) False teachers dilute the truth. (v.3)

How well do you think you can detect false teaching? How vulnerable are you to false teaching?

Have you ever sat under a teacher or preacher only to learn later that false teaching had deceived you? What did he/she teach that you later learned was contrary to sound doctrine? How did you discover the teaching was false?

2) False teachers deviate from humility. (v.4a)

Describe the personality, attitude, and methodology of those who often teach false doctrine.

Is everything taught by false teachers false? How do false teachers gain a following?

How do these teachers use the Bible in their teaching? How much verse-by-verse teaching do false teachers do?

3) False teachers divide an uncommon community. (v.4b-5)

Do you find false teachers surrounded by accountability? How does an elder form of church government protect a church from false teachers?

Describe the damage done to a church when false teaches are allowed to influence without being exposed.

Five essential doctrines under attack by false teachers.

False teachers are found both inside and outside of church. Discuss where you might find those who attack these essential doctrines.

1) The Authority of Scripture is under attack by humanism.

Discuss this statement: *"I believe the bible contains the Word of God."* Why is it incomplete?

Do you believe the bible is an accurate and sufficient self-disclosure of the nature and will of God? What are you left with when you begin to dismantle the bible as merely a book written by men?

2) The Exclusivity of Christ is under attack by pluralism.

Discuss this statement: *"We are all children of the same God. All sincere religions lead to God."* Why is it inaccurate?

Read Galatians 2:20. How many paths has God given to be made right with him? If there other ways to be made right with God, why would God allow his son to be tortured on a cross?

3) The Sanctity of Marriage is under attack by unbridled sexuality.

Discuss this statement: *"I don't see why two people who love each other should not be allowed to marry because God is a God of love and acceptance."*

Read Malachi 2:14-15. What is God's purpose of marriage? Why is 'love' an insufficient basis for marriage? What is a higher and better motivation? How serious do you think God is about providing for the well-being of children? What affect does it have on a child when he is raised by his biological parents who are in a committed, God honoring, permanent marriages? What is the affect when a child is not raised in this environment?

What affect has unrestrained sexuality had on our culture? ...on you?

4) Eternal Judgment is under attack by universalism.

Discuss this statement: *"I could never serve a God who would eternally condemn someone to hell."*

How does a sense of God's impending justice enable you to forgive those who sin against you?

What is the relationship between God's holiness and God's judgment?

What is the relationship between God's judgment and God's grace?

What was the purpose of the cross in relation to judgment and hell?

5) Godliness with Contentment is under attack by prosperity theology.

Discuss this statement: *"If you want to be prosperous and healthy...you must boldly declare words of faith and victory over yourself and your family."*

Why are those who are suffering particularly vulnerable to those who promote prosperity theology?

What are God's purposes for suffering?

Additional Scripture

- Romans 16:17-18
- Colossians 2:8
- Titus 3:9-11
- 1John 3:7-10
- 1John 4:2-3
- 2John 9-11
- Jude 4
- Revelation 2:20