

False Teachers **Matthew 7:15-20**

I) What is a false teacher? (15)

Mark 13:22; 1 John 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2:1; Deuteronomy 4:2;
Revelation 22:18-19; Deuteronomy 49: 27; John 10:12

II) How can we spot a false teacher? (16-20)

Romans 16:17

God's View of False Teachers

False teachers and false prophets have risen up in every generation of the Church. False teachers take away from God's Word. False prophets add to God's Word. Both of these false communicators will incur severe judgment from God. Scripture characterizes false teachers as wolves dressed in sheep's clothing. As wolves, false teachers seek to divide and devour the sheep (genuine believers in Christ) within the Church. In appearing as sheep, false teachers can do an excellent job of looking like genuine believers in Christ. But the content of a false teacher's instruction will always expose them for the wolves that they truly are. Their teaching originates from heresy, not orthodoxy. Orthodox Christianity rests on the straight doctrines of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Orthodox Christianity holds firmly to the doctrines of the deity of Christ, the Trinity, the authority of Scripture, the sinfulness of man, the resurrection of Christ, and unmerited salvation. The instruction of false teachers will never align with these doctrines of orthodox Christianity. God has not left His Church defenseless against the schemes of false teachers. We can grow in our understanding of truth through studying Scripture and through studying the creeds, confessions, and catechisms of the Church down through the centuries of Church history.

Questions for Discussion and Further Reflection

1. What is a false teacher?
2. Have you ever sat under someone's false teaching? When did you realize that the teaching was false?
3. What is orthodoxy? What is heterodoxy?
4. Why do some theological issues qualify as orthodoxy while others qualify as heterodoxy?
5. Have you previously been exposed to Christian creeds, confessions, and catechisms? Where will you begin (or continue) to read these rich sources of Christian theology?

Resources Recommended by Pastor Kent

The **bolded** options are the resources specifically recommended within Pastor Kent's message.

Creeds:

- [**Apostles'**](#)
- [Nicene](#)
- [Athanasian](#)
- [Chalcedonian](#)

Confessions:

- [Augsburg](#)
- [Belgic](#)
- [Canons of Dort](#)
- [**Westminster**](#)
- [Waldensian](#)

Catechisms:

- [Puritan](#)
- [Baltimore](#)
- [Episcopal](#)
- [Heidelberg](#)
- [Westminster Larger, Part 1](#)
- [Westminster Larger, Part 2](#)
- [**Westminster Shorter**](#)