

**Series: Back to Basics**  
**Title: Detecting False Teachers**  
**1 John 2:18-27**

**Introduction**

John goes to the heart of the problem, pointing out that false teachers are responsible for this distorted spirituality.

1. John writes about the dangers \_\_\_\_\_ predicted in the gospel of Matthew.
2. An \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who opposes Jesus by deception.
3. John reminds them that they could expect not only the emergence of the Antichrist—but also that many antichrists would \_\_\_\_\_ him.
4. Satan cannot stop the spread of the good news about Jesus throughout the world, so instead, he "floods the \_\_\_\_\_ with counterfeits" in order to deceive people.
5. Jesus taught that these opponents were forerunners of the ultimate Antichrist, a diabolical false \_\_\_\_\_, just before Jesus returns.
6. They continue to emerge today, so it's important to know how to \_\_\_\_\_ false teachers.

**I. How to Spot False Teachers**

7. \_\_\_\_\_ in sheep's clothing can even masquerade as faithful followers of Jesus.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ know and can quote the Bible.
9. They are often \_\_\_\_\_ teachers or speakers, highly educated and college trained. Your sins have been forgiven on account of \_\_\_\_\_ name.
10. But Jesus said, "You will know them by their \_\_\_\_\_."

11. Do they "walk in the \_\_\_\_\_?"
12. False teachers place themselves \_\_\_\_\_ God's moral law by denying any connection between sin and spirituality.
13. Some false teachers love to humanize Jesus to the level of an \_\_\_\_\_ man, no deity involved.
14. Do they "walk in \_\_\_\_\_."
15. Those who preach or justify \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus are connected to false teaching.
16. What do they teach about \_\_\_\_\_?
17. Jesus is the heart of Christianity, so what better way to deceive people than to teach a \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus?
18. Jesus is fully God and fully human, humanity's only \_\_\_\_\_ and Messiah.
19. False teachers try to deny Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_ his true identity.

## **II. Be A Tenacious Defender of Truth**

20. This deception requires believers to become tenacious defenders of the truth of \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Our culture has always emphasized religious \_\_\_\_\_, respecting people's freedom to believe/disbelieve what they want.
22. More recently, this has morphed into agreeing that all religious views are equally \_\_\_\_\_ and that America is no longer one nation under God.
23. John was an \_\_\_\_\_ disciple of Jesus.

24. John isn't disrespectful of others to insist on this portrait of Jesus—he is being \_\_\_\_\_ and faithful to the truth about Jesus.
25. What is deceitful is to re-create or \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus to be something other than what he claimed for himself.
26. We should have the \_\_\_\_\_ to let Jesus speak for himself and then accept or reject him.
27. The salvation Jesus offers depends upon his unique \_\_\_\_\_.
28. The \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins must be both a sinless human and fully divine.
29. He speaks as one who has been healed from a fatal \_\_\_\_\_ through a wonderful medicine and then discovers that others with the same disease are being offered a counterfeit medication that will leave them to die in their sickness.
30. We introduce people to the real Jesus; not some \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus who can't help you at all.

### **III. Respond With a Biblical Warning**

31. We need to learn what the Bible teaches about Jesus well enough to spot \_\_\_\_\_ teaching about Jesus.
32. The best way to detect counterfeit currency is not to study counterfeits but to become so familiar with the \_\_\_\_\_ money that counterfeits jump right out at you.
33. Genuine Christian teachers root their teachings in the Bible, and they \_\_\_\_\_ you to test their teachings by the Bible.
34. Be careful about calling people false teachers unless they \_\_\_\_\_ fit the description.
35. If a teacher upholds the real Jesus and has moral integrity and genuine agape love, the term; \_\_\_\_\_ teacher doesn't apply.

36. We shouldn't support false teachers with our fellowship or financial \_\_\_\_\_.
37. We cannot embrace them as fellow Christians or financially support their ministry without \_\_\_\_\_ our commitment to Jesus and hurting his cause.
38. We should \_\_\_\_\_ other Christians of false teachers.
39. When we warn others, we may save them from being \_\_\_\_\_ by false teaching.

## Conclusion

40. We should \_\_\_\_\_ to those who have been influenced or damaged by false teaching.

Avoid fruitless arguments. Relate to people with genuine love and keep to the good news of God's complete love and forgiveness. It can have a powerful impact on those who have been deceived by a counterfeit Christianity.

## Answers

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|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Jesus      | 15. hatred       | 29. disease      |
| 2. antichrist | 16. Jesus        | 30. counterfeit  |
| 3. precede    | 17. counterfeit  | 31. false        |
| 4. market     | 18. Savior       | 32. legitimate   |
| 5. Messiah    | 19. rejecting    | 33. encourage    |
| 6. spot       | 20. scripture    | 34. genuinely    |
| 7. Wolves     | 21. tolerance    | 35. false        |
| 8. Deceivers  | 22. valid        | 36. support      |
| 9. gifted     | 23. eye-witness  | 37. compromising |
| 10. fruits    | 24. honest       | 38. warn         |
| 11. light     | 25. misrepresent | 39. damaged      |
| 12. above     | 26. integrity    | 40. reach out    |
| 13. ordinary  | 27. identity     |                  |
| 14. love      | 28. Substitute   |                  |

## QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. What form of false teaching have you experienced most recently? How did it differ from true Christianity?
2. Have you ever been accused of being "intolerant" for your beliefs about Jesus? How did you deal with the accusation?