

# What Every Believer Needs to Know about False Ministries

## 22 Things Every believer should know about False Ministries

### 5. All ministers will go through the servant test

#### **Mt 20:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them aside and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave—...

### 6. Believers must learn how to interpret the Word of God for themselves

Doctrine should never be built on isolated scriptures. A lot of cults were birthed by the leaders taking a scripture to its extreme out of context. We need to ask the following questions:

- 1) Did Jesus teach it?
- 2) Is it practised in the book of Acts?
- 3) Do we see it explained in the Epistles?

In establishing doctrine don't build using just one translation especially if it's a paraphrased one. Also, we must beware of novel interpretations of things. Rather study the subject yourself and seek counsel.

#### **Matthew 23:23**

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."*

We see that it is possible to major on certain truths whilst forgetting God's whole counsel. We see this in false ministries. They tend to have a strong emphasis on certain doctrine but completely ignore some major ones.

#### **2 Tim 2:15**

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth*

If a teacher is incorrectly handling the Word, will you know?

### 8 Rules of Bible Interpretation:

1. The Rule of Definition - what does the word mean? Study the original text (Greek or Hebrew)
2. The Rule of Usage – cultural idioms of the Jewish and Greek people
3. The Rule of Context – Do not proof text. This is where you pre-decide what you want to say and then you look for scriptures out of context to support your idea. E.g. the Mormons support of polytheism based on taking 1 Cor 8:5 out of context. Read the whole passage.
4. The Rule of Historical Background
5. The Rule of Logic – Apply laws of language and grammatical analysis
6. The Law of Precedent – The Bereans did not violate the known usage of a word
7. The Law of Unity – Is it consistent with the rest of scripture? Consider all the passages on the topic. Allow scripture to interpret scripture.
8. The Law of Inference - this is when a fact is reasonably implied from another fact. We see Jesus using this approach when he was explaining the resurrection of the dead to the Sadducees in Matthew 22:22-33.

## **7. False ministers can come from solid bible-based churches**

### **Acts 20:30**

*Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.*

Be careful because often the truth is slightly distorted, not radically. But what's the end of that thinking and error. Many people emphasize spiritual genealogy to endorse ministers but many false teachers come from good pedigree before losing their way.

## **8. False ministries have distinct fruit by which we can recognise them**

### **Mt 7:15-17**

*<sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit....*

## **9. False ministers tend to honour covenants with men more than the covenant with Christ**

You see this when you try to leave their ministry. You are treated differently and sometimes threatened. Leaving their ministry is like you have fallen from grace. People feel guilty after leaving. The scary thing about this is that when Satanists leave Satanism they also talk about the same type of fear, intimidation and threats.

There is an undue emphasis on getting an anointing from a Spiritual Father. The concept of who we are in Christ and the access we have to Jesus is down played. They often act as mediators between God and man. They don't emphasise the priesthood of believers.

### **1 Cor 1:12-14**

*<sup>12</sup> What I mean is this: Individuals among you are saying, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius,...*

The result of this is that they tend to be sectarian and isolated. Sometimes they will seek endorsement of their false ministries through trying to associate with respected figures in the body of Christ. Be very wary when ministries become exclusive and sectarian. You see this when the pastors only want you to read their books and no one else's.