

Characteristics of False Prophets

Read: 2 Peter 2:1-3, 14, 15 (Look for the characteristics.)

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping... 2:14, 15 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! 15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness.



One time before preaching a crusade an elder little saint of a woman asked the question of the evangelist, “*Are you for sin, or against it?*” That is an excellent question for every preacher to be asked. If we are soft on sin, we may be soft on the truth. Let’s as men and women of God preach only the Word of God and live what we preach.

- 1. They are often self-appointed prophets but among the people.**
They have no reputable accountability.
- 2. Some claim they have been called into ministry by dead people.**
God strictly forbids us from consulting with the dead. Deut. 18:10, 11
- 3. They preach a “different gospel”.** *Galatians 1:8*
- 4. They teach destructive heresies.** *In Genesis 3:5, Satan said Adam & Eve could become like God. We are not “little gods”, we are human beings. Our words cannot create things, only God can create. New Age teaching has invaded the church.*
- 5. They make up “wild stories”.** *2 Peter 2:3*
They sometimes say that God appeared to them, or spoke to them, when it is simply not true. In Deut. 18:20-22 God clearly condemns false prophets.
- 6. They never stop sinning, seduce the unstable, and are experts in greed.** *2 Peter 2:14, 15* *They “focus” mainly on money.*
- 7. They appeal to the “lustful desires” of the flesh.**
Phil.4:11, 12 “...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned how to be content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
- 8. They promote “secrets” and teach the “secret to your healing & prosperity” is to give to their ministry.**

I have been in several church services where the preacher had asked for people to come forward with their “seed faith offering” to be sown in faith. They are told their “sowing” will bring a harvest for their physical, emotional, spiritual or financial healing. Where did Jesus ever do this? Beware of false prophets.