

How to Identify False Teachers

From the Gospel Lesson [Matthew 7:15-21](#)

1. Acknowledge False Teachers Exist

They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves [Matthew 7:15](#)

Acknowledge there are, in fact, men and women who claim to be Christians, are popular, sound great, and seem authentic but are in fact false teachers who lead away from Christ.

2. Examine a Teacher's Life

You will know them by their fruit. [Matthew 7:16](#)

What kind of fruit is his life and teaching bearing? Is he humble, self-controlled, holy, yielding glory to Christ, modest, prudent?

3. Does This Teacher Promote the Ancient Doctrines or New Insights?

The faith was once for all delivered to the saints. [Jude 1:3](#)

Does the person teaching claim to have some new insight or new information? If he does, he or she does make such claims, he or she is certainly wrong.

4. Does the Teaching Accord with the Doctrines of the Church's Creeds and Councils?

The Church is the pillar and ground of truth. [1 Timothy 3:15](#)

Trust the teaching of the Church, because her witness is not her own opinion, it is the witness of the Holy Spirit for 20 centuries. If the church has agreed on a doctrine for two thousand years you can be sure it is the result of the miraculous intervention of the Holy Ghost.

5. Does the Teaching Accord with Scripture?

Be of a more noble character and search the Scriptures to see if these things are so. [Acts 17:11](#)

The Berean Jews were commended because they listened to the Apostles, but they did not stop there. They turned to the word of God to make sure that everything they heard was in accord with God's word.