



Group Discussion and Application

1. In selecting a church, what are some things people give higher priority to than the preaching and teaching of the Word? Why?
2. Beyond those examined in the sermon, what are some additional characteristics of false teaching?
3. Give some examples of false teaching that has been masked or mixed with truth.
4. We can understand the presence of false teaching in the world. But how does false teaching creep into the church?
5. What actions can we take individually and as a church to insure that we adhere to sound doctrine?
6. What guidelines have you found personally helpful in detecting error?
7. What can we do personally and collectively to facilitate obedient response to the teaching of God's Word so that good fruit is produced?
8. Not all error is heresy. The *New Dictionary of Theology* describes heresy as "doctrinal deviation from the fundamental truths taught by Scripture and the orthodox Christian church, and active propagation of the same." Harold O.J. Brown says it refers to doctrine "sufficiently intolerable to destroy the unity of the Christian church." Philip Towner suggests that the concern of the early church was for "deviations in doctrines pertaining to God and Christ and the nature of salvation and justification." What criteria should we use to determine if some teaching is heretical? Why is important to distinguish between what is truly heretical and lesser errors?



Personal Reflection and Response

1. Evaluate the messages you hear this week. Think critically and Biblically. Determine if these messages are true or false? Heretical or lesser error?
2. What personal action do you need to take to guard yourself against error?



Family Homework

1. Examine various news and magazine articles, TV shows, etc. and analyze their messages. What is the message? Is it true? How do you know?
2. Discuss what it means to have a Biblical world view. How is this developed?



Finding Falsehood

1 Timothy 1:3-11, 18-20

Four Characteristics of False Teaching:

1 False teaching _____ truth.

2 False teaching _____ truth.

3 False teaching _____ truth.

4 False teaching _____ truth.