

2 Peter

5) False Teachers Are Like This

✓ **A false teacher is someone who denies the primary truths of the faith, or, consistently ignores the basic principles of hermeneutics**

✓ **Peter gives some characteristics of the false teachers he had to deal with in his day**

✓ **Not all false teachers have all these traits**

'...and despise authority.They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord'

(2 Pet.2:10b-11)

1) They Despise Authority

- ✓ **All government and authority is of God.** *'Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God'* (Rom.13:1)
- ✓ **To despise authority is to despise the Lordship of Christ**
- ✓ **We are called to submit to authority.** *'Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake' (1 Pet.2:11).* *'Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account'* (Heb.13:17)

- ✓ **The purpose of all God-appointed leadership and authority is to establish divine order**
- ✓ **Sadly, when some see a fault in their leaders they see this as an excuse to attack or rebel against that leadership**
- ✓ **When an authority clashes with the will of God we are to obey God, not man. But we still respect the office. Submission is different to obedience**
- ✓ ***'The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do' (Matt.23:2-3)***

2) They Display Arrogance

✓ ***'They are presumptuous'***, i.e. daring, to the point of defying conscience, becoming more and more immoral, justifying their behaviour and twisting Scripture to do so

✓ ***'They are self-willed'***, from *authades*; auto = self; haddon = pleasing. They do not care about how their behaviour affects others or their testimony, and they are not interested in the counsel and admonition of others. They are only interested in pleasing themselves

In contrast...

'...a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will'

(2 Tim.2:24-26)

3) They make Damaging Accusations

✓ *'They...speak evil of dignitaries...'*

'Dignitaries' is from the Greek *doxo* which is a general word meaning glory or honour. It speaks of those God has given honour to by placing them above others, especially in leadership. It has wide application and can refer to angels or human leaders

✓ *'...whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them'*. **'Reviling'** is from the Greek word *blasphemia* meaning to slander

***'But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime'
(2 Pet.2:12-13a)***

4) They are Corrupt

- ✓ ***'will utterly perish in their own corruption'. God has created us for greatness. But, like animals these false teachers were totally void of any concept of the high purpose of mankind to live to the glory of God. They had given themselves over to unrestrained self-indulgence. Their conscience was seared. '...who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness' (Eph.4:19)***
- ✓ **They will perish in their own corruption. Their very sins will destroy them**

- ✓ **They will receive the wages of unrighteousness. The wages of living in blatant sin is addiction. The more one has, the less it satisfies and he wants to go deeper in lust, depravity, drunkenness, etc. He is now caught in a web that will end in death**
- ✓ **Peter said they even carouse in the daytime, which was not normal even for the unsaved. But these live off the money they have scammed from their hearers so do not need to work**

5) They Corrupt Others

'They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls'

(2 Pet.2:14)

In contrast, the character of Christ is without spot or blemish,

'...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot'

(1 Pet.1:19)

- ✓ **This is the character of the Church also,**
'Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish' **(Eph.5:27)**
- ✓ **They seek to confuse us about our identity**
- ✓ **'Having eyes full of adultery'. They lust after every woman they see, viewing each one as a potential adulteress. Serial adulterers**
- ✓ **They prey on unstable souls who are not established on the apostles doctrine**

6) They are Covetous

'They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet'

(2 Pet.2:13b-16)

They have a heart trained (*gumnazo*) in covetous practices

- ✓ **Like Balaam they had a great knowledge of God. He knew the way of truth but didn't love it (2 Thes.2:10)**
- ✓ **He only wanted to know how to profit financially. Like Balaam, many false prophets think it is all about money**
- ✓ **Balaam had to be restrained by a dumb donkey because he would not listen to God**