

# Core singles Fellowship

Proliferating False  
Prophets

# Proliferating False Prophets

## Overview

**They have always been there**

**They will increase in number and power**

**How to recognize false teachers**

**How to respond to false teachers**

**How this plays out in the cults**

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They have always been there**

**2 Peter 2:1 (ESV)**

***1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.***

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They have always been there**

**Moses declared God's judgment on them  
Deuteronomy 13:5 (ESV)**

*<sup>5</sup> But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.*

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They have always been there**

**Moses declared God's judgment on them**

**Deuteronomy 18:20 (ESV)**

*20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'*

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They have always been there**

**Jeremiah decreed a similar end**

**Jeremiah 23:15 (ESV) cf 9-16**

*15 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: “Behold, I will feed them with bitter food and give them poisoned water to drink, for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has gone out into all the land.”*

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They have always been there**

**Then in the early church**

*1Jn 2:18-19; 4:1;*

*2 Jn 7;*

*Acts 20:29-32;*

*Rev. 2:6, 9, 14, 15, 20;*

*Jude 4*

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They have always been there**

**And even now we have**

**A growing body of**

**False teaching**



# Proliferating False Prophets

**They have always been there**

**And even now we have**

**A growing body of**

**False teaching**

**The cults**

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They will increase in number and power**

**Jesus:**

**Luke 18:8 (ESV)**

*...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"*

**Matthew 24:24 (ESV)**

*24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They will increase in number and power**

**Paul:**

**1 Timothy 4:1-2 (ESV)**

*1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,*

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They will increase in number and power**

**Paul:**

**Colossians 2:8 (ESV)**

*8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*

# Proliferating False Prophets

**They will increase in number and power**

**Peter:**

**2 Peter 3:3-4 (ESV)**

*<sup>3</sup> knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”*

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How to recognize false teachers

### Character traits 2 Pt 2:

- **Divisive**
- **Secretive**
- **Sinful, in the extreme**
  - ◆ **Slaves of corruption**
  - ◆ **Sensual**
  - ◆ **Adulterous**
  - ◆ **Irrational animals**
  - ◆ **Creatures of instinct**

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How to recognize false teachers

### Character traits cont'd 2 Pt 2:

- Greedy – from deep within the heart
- Deceitful
  - ◆ Appearance of being a believer
- Arrogant – bold & willful
  - ◆ Boastful of folly
- Gone astray
- Waterless springs
- Mists driven by a storm

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How to recognize false teachers

### Behaviors/actions:

- Teach destructive heresies
- Secretly
- Exploit weaker ones through lies
- Entice unsteady souls by sensuality
- Have adulterous eyes
- Revel in the day
- Blemish the Name



# Proliferating False Prophets

## How to recognize false teachers

### Behaviors/actions cont'd.:

- Seek gain from wrongdoing – as did Balaam
- Revel in deception while pretending to be one of us
- Deny the Master – Jesus
- Blaspheme the way of truth
- Blaspheme the glorious ones

# Proliferating False Prophets

## Responding to false teachers

**Their judgment is guaranteed (2 Pt 2):**

Vs 17 – He has reserved the gloom of utter darkness for false teachers

Vs 20-22 – The False teachers rejection of their knowledge of Jesus puts them in a worse state

Better for them never to have known the Way

# Proliferating False Prophets

## Responding to false teachers

**The believer's Deliverance is sure (2 Pt 2):**

- Vs 9 the Lord knows how to rescue the godly
- Vs 5 – He preserved Noah + 7
- Vs 7 – He rescued righteous Lot
- Vs 16 He rescued the Israelites from Balaam

**We can trust Him to keep us safe from false teachers**

# Proliferating False Prophets

## Responding to false teachers

### The discernment required of us (2 Pt 3):

- Vs 17 – Knowing this beforehand – (what?)
  - ◆ Take care not to
    - ▶ be carried away with their error
    - ▶ lose your stability, but
- Vs 18 – grow in grace & knowledge of the Lord

# Proliferating False Prophets

## Responding to false teachers

What do you believe God is going to do about false teachers?

What do you believe God expects you to do about false teachers?

# **Proliferating False Prophets**

## **How this plays out in the cults**

### **How they present themselves:**

- **Pseudo-Christian**
- **Works oriented salvation**
- **A False Christ**

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How this plays out in the cults

### Some characteristics of:

- Charismatic leadership
- Extra-Biblical writings
- Unique doctrines
- Exclusive
- Secretive
- Authoritarian
- Deceptive

# Proliferating False Prophets

How this plays out in the cults

Some dangers of:

Converting Christians

- Normal pathway:
- Pagan



# Proliferating False Prophets

**How this plays out in the cults**

**Some dangers of:**

**Converting Christians**

Normal pathway:

Pagan → Christian

# Proliferating False Prophets

**How this plays out in the cults**

**Some dangers of:**

**Converting Christians**

Normal pathway:

Pagan → Christian → Cult member

# Proliferating False Prophets

How this plays out in the cults

Some dangers of:

Influencing church doctrines

- Divinity of Jesus - Trinity
- Inerrancy of Scripture
- Sola Scriptura
- Contemplative practices
- Becoming syncretistic
- Salvation issues

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How this plays out in the cults

### **Mormonism:**

Leader: Joseph Smith

Authority: The Book of Mormon

View of Jesus: one of many gods

Uniqueness: I can be a god

Salvation: earned, achieve third heaven

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How this plays out in the cults

### **Jehovah's Witness:**

Leader: Charles Taze Russell

Authority: The New World Translation, writings of  
Russell and Rutherford

View of Jesus: Death a ransom, risen as divine spirit

Uniqueness: 144k reign in heaven, the rest on earth

Salvation: of works enabled after ransom

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How this plays out in the cults

### **Christian Science:**

Leader: Mary Baker Eddy

Authority: Her writings

View of Jesus: A spiritual idea, birthed by Mary

Uniqueness: God is a divine principle, no clergy

Salvation: Man = God, sin does not exist

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How this plays out in the cults

### **New Age:**

Leader: many

Authority: Mystical experiences

View of Jesus: in tune with The Christ  
consciousness, the universe

Uniqueness: individualistic

Salvation: attaining altered state of consciousness  
consistently

# Proliferating False Prophets

## How this plays out in the cults

### Igesia Ni Cristo:

Leader: Felix Y Manalo

Authority: Felix the Prophet

View of Jesus: created by God

Uniqueness: the Trinity is a heresy

Salvation: Joining and obeying the church

Started 1914 – now >27 M – the largest cult



# Proliferating False Prophets

## How this plays out in the cults

### **Creciendo En Gracia:**

Leader: Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda

Authority: Himself as the reincarnation of Paul

View of Jesus: His teachings < Paul's

Uniqueness: Satan sin & Hell have been destroyed

Salvation: grace of God, as taught by Paul covers all

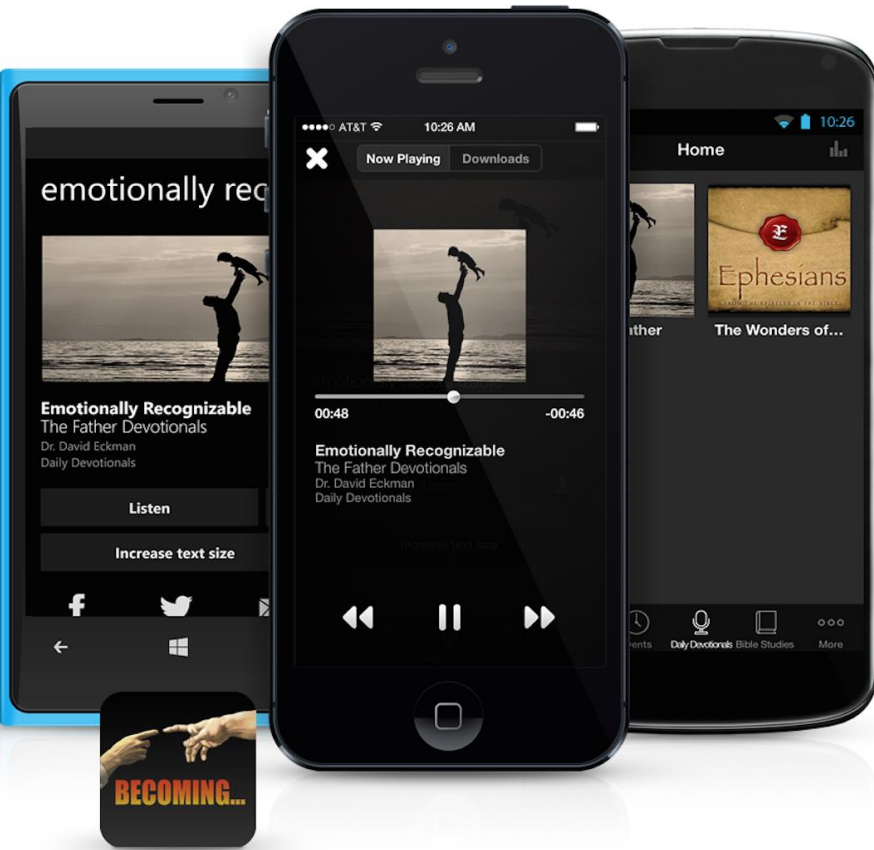
newest – 1998 Miami, FL

# Proliferating False Prophets

## Responding to false teachers

What do you believe God is going to do about false teachers?

What do you believe God expects you to do about false teachers?



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