

Heresy

In Today's Christian Church



**What Is Heresy?
Where Did It Originate?
How Did It Get Into The Church?
How Can Christians Identify It?
What Damage Has It Done?
Why Do We Still Tolerate It?
How Do We Fight Against It?**

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Preface

This eBook will focus on Heresy in the church and Christian World. We will identify several heresies, their origins, their purpose, the way to combat them and other aspects.

Our purpose is to make Christians aware of truth and error so they will not succumb to damnable heresies.

We will be using the KJV of the Bible when ever possible and will present the complete scripture reference with its address so the reader can look it up and read it in context.

This eBook should be an easy read, full of Biblical references, and multiple contributors.

My hope is that the reader will come out of error if caught up in false teachings and be blessed by the truths of God's Holy Word.

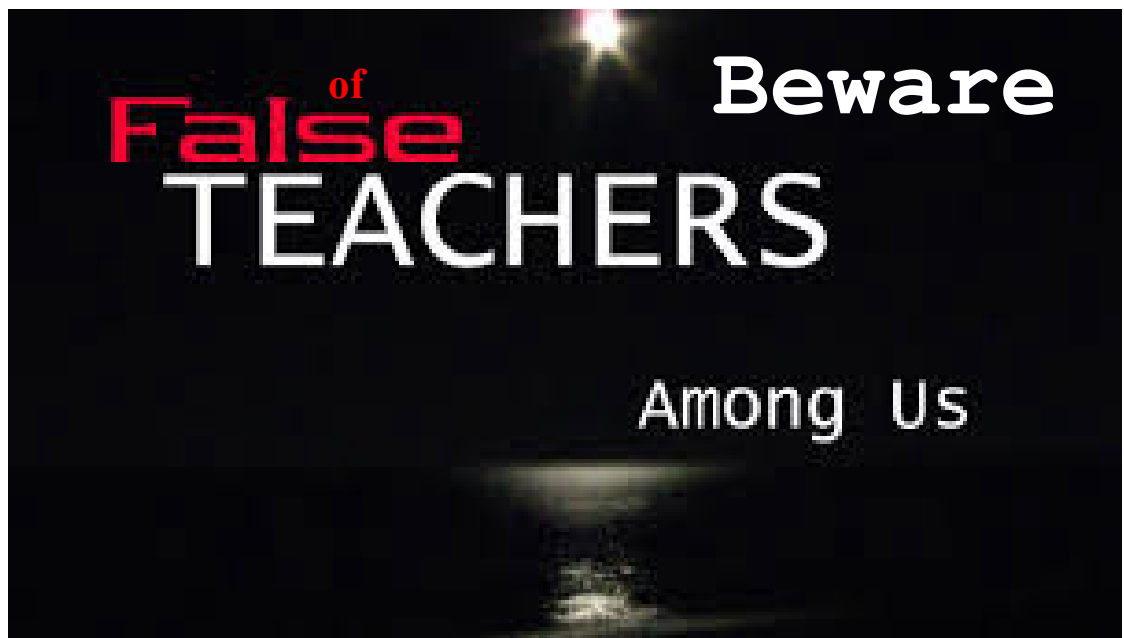
Introduction

The word, “**Heresy**” is defined by Webster’s dictionary as; adherence to a religious opinion contrary to church dogma; denial of a revealed truth by a baptized member of the Roman Catholic Church; an opinion or doctrine contrary to church dogma; dissent or deviation from a dominant theory, opinion, or practice; an opinion, doctrine, or practice contrary to the truth or to generally accepted beliefs or standards.

Heresy, according to Easton’s Bible dictionary

Comes from a Greek word signifying (1) a choice, (2) the opinion chosen, and (3) the sect holding the opinion. In the Acts of the Apostles (5:17 ; 15:5 ; Isaiah 24:5 Isaiah 24:14 ; 26:5) it denotes a sect, without reference to its character. Elsewhere, however, in the New Testament it has a different meaning attached to it. Paul ranks "heresies" with crimes and seditions (Galatians 5:20). This word also denotes divisions or schisms in the church (1 Corinthians 11:19). In Titus 3:10 a "heretical person" is one who follows his own...self-willed "questions," and who is to be avoided.

***Heresies thus came to signify self-chosen doctrines
not emanating from God (2 Peter 2:1).***



Where Does Heresy Come From?

Jesus said, “¹⁵ Beware of *false prophets*, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits.

Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth-good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth-evil fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

²⁰ *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*
Matthew 7:15-20

False Prophets Are Anti-Christ

A false prophet is an Anti-Christ. They can be pastors, teachers or just regular folk like you and me. However, they hold a private interpretation of the scriptures and use it to gather souls unto themselves. They make policy and doctrines that contradict the scriptures. They do this for their own gain.

Remember what Jesus said to His disciples on the Mount of Olives? - And Jesus answered and said unto them, “*Take heed that no man deceive you. 5- For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*” (Matthew 24: 4-5)

The word Christ is Greek for Anointed One. I believe that Jesus was telling His followers that as the world drew closer to its inevitable end that people would show up on the stage of life saying, “I am anointed”. It’s another way of saying I am a Christian. These professing Christians will deceive many with their damnable heresy. They will wear sheep’s clothing. They will speak the lingo, and push their self-willed doctrines that do not align with Biblical revelation.

Christianity is the most adhered religion in the United States, with 70.6% of polled American adults identifying themselves as Christian

in 2014. This is down from 1965 where 93% identified themselves as Christian, according to the Pew Religious Report. These folks make up both Protestant and Catholic and every other sects claiming Christianity.

Lets talk for a moment about the many of Matthew 24 that are deceived. Who are these folks? I will list a few so you can see for your self. Each holds fast to a private interpretation: Mormonism, Unity Church, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witness and, well you can fill in all the others. These claim to be children of God but deny or distort the gospel message of Christ. They do not believe in being, "Born Again" as Jesus said in John chapter three nor do they see salvation as being by grace.

To know them by their fruits is to listen to what they say about Christ and Salvation. If it does not line up with what the apostles taught, they are false prophets. They are wolves in sheep's clothing.

Titles like pastor, evangelist, bible teacher and the like mean nothing. We do not respect anyone that distorts the truth of God's Word. We are to turn away. We are the sheep of His pasture and hear only His voice.

Behind The Scenes

Any spiritual minded believer would tell you that all of this is motivated by the devil. Jesus said, as recorded in **John 10:10**, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Peter told the 1st century Christians to, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." **I Peter 5:8-9**

It's obvious that these wolves in sheep's clothing are sent by Satan to deceive many thereby stealing their destiny, destroying their peace in

this world and killing their dreams. We are admonished to resist using our faith in Christ and the Word of God.

The Purpose of Heresy

However, when Paul and Peter's writing began circulating, heresies were defined as a destructive element within the church that creates division through consciously formed opinions and ideas in disagreement with the orthodox teachings of the apostles. Paul condemns it in **Galatians 5:20** as one of "the works of the flesh." Sometimes it is translated "factions" or "party spirit," but regardless of its translation, Paul says that people who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God (verse 21)! (Forerunner, February 1995) Thus the purpose is to cause divisions and destroy established doctrine.

Heresy's Only Goal

The only goal is to lead the believer into error where he or she cannot benefit from the truth. A good example of this is in Galatians chapter three.

"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? ²This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ³Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? ⁴Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. ⁵He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" **Galatians 3:1-5**

Paul called them foolish for starting out in the spirit and ending up in the flesh. That's what the devil wants....to take you away from living your life in the spirit. He wants you to operate in the flesh so you can be tormented day and night.

The error was to dismiss Grace through faith and hold fast to salvation by works. This cancelled out the finished work of Christ on the cross

and positioned the believer to work at attaining salvation. No longer was it a free gift. Salvation by works is heresy for sure.

How Old Testament Saints Dealt With A False Profit

"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴ "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. ⁵ "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk So you shall purge the evil from among you. **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**

How The Early Church Deal With Heretical Teachings?

The Church fought against heresies from the very start. Here are some ways they attacked errors that crept into the church:

1. **Acts 15:41** – The apostolic visits were solely to confirm or strengthen the church and ensure they are preserved from doctrinal errors.

2. **1Cor. 1:11-13; 2: 1-2; Gal 3:1-3** – The epistles were written to various local assemblies to correct heresies and arrest the trend early.
3. **1 Thess. 5: 2-8** – We are children of the day and not of the night, hence, let us keep the light of the true gospel shining. **Acts 15: 1-31**
4. **1Tim. 1:3-7, 18** – Timothy was given specific charge when he was sent to Ephesus and this is to confront the heretical teachers.
5. **2 Tim. 2:2; 4:2-5** – Paul advocates intentional mentoring as a way of dealing with wrong teachings. This approach will embolden true teachers of the Word to counter the effect of heretical teachings.
6. **Tit.1:9-11** – The assignment of Titus among the Cretans was to stop the mouth of the false teachers.
7. **1 John 2:15-19** – John warns against worldliness, as a sign of heretical teachings. He also identified the spirit at work as that of the antichrist.

How To Identify Heresy? **(Gen 3:1-9)**

1. It appeals to the flesh – **2 Tim 4:2; 2 Pet 3:3.**
2. It challenges the authenticity of the Word of God.
3. It is half-truth; just enough poison to damage and damn the soul eternally.
4. It does not rely on the operation of the Holy Spirit.
5. It could lead to a movement, but it will not produce true believers.
6. It impoverishes the laity while the clergy lives big.– **1 Pet 5:2-3**
7. It feeds on the ignorance of the followers.
8. It downplays end time warning – **2 Pet 3:3-4.**

Heresy is a neighbor to apostasy. This is why there are homosexuals and lesbians who call themselves believers today.

A sure way to identify a false doctrine is to know the truth of God's Word. The 1st century believers studied, taught, fellowshiped, prayed, lived and died to ensure the decimation of the true doctrine of Christ. They risked everything for it. Nothing was compromised for the truth, **1 Tim 6:3-5; Rom 16: 17; Deut 13:1-10, 2John 10-11**. If you know the truth, not only will it set you free, but you will also be able to identify heresies afar off and help others to do the same. (Excerpts taken from RCCG SUNDAY SCHOOL, UK)

Damage Done By Heretical Teachings?

The biggest damage is divisiveness in the church. There are currently over 3,000 protestant denominations in the United States. Unity is a long way off as Christians fight over doctrines and policies. Here are a few errors that are causing confusion and overshadowing the truth of the apostolic doctrines that originally grounded the believer and solidified the church:

1. A shift from salvation by grace through faith to salvation by the works of the law.
2. A shift from the eternal security of the believer to a loss of one's salvation due to falling short.
3. A trend towards reincarnation as a means of getting better in degrees and thereby gaining salvation.
4. A denial of God as the creator of all things including man for an a theory of evolution.
5. An assault on marriage as being holy and strictly for the benefit of male and female to being expanded to include same sex marriages.
6. A huge decline in the need to be, "Born Again" to enter the Kingdom of God among self identified protestant Christians.
7. A significant rise in the belief that Jesus is no longer the only way to God the Father.
8. The legalization of abortion and the murder of more than 50-million babies in their mother's womb.

I am sure you can think of more ways Heresy has damaged the church and diluted the Christian Faith.

Why Do We Still Tolerate Heresy?

Much of today's heresy started in the secular world. Over the years, Christians began to accept the false teachings until it has now become acceptable in most groups except the ultra conservative. The government was and still is an agent of heresy as it pushes abortion rights and the gay lifestyle through legislation.

Being politically correct is more important than Biblically sound. Churches now accept gays, tolerate immorality and even embrace liberalism, all in an effort to not be ridiculed as a backward non-progressive institution. What was once light to the soul has become darkness in the eyes of the world and the world's darkness is now light by which society defines itself.

Heresy In The Catholic Church

Here is a list of Catholic Traditions that are contrary to Bible truth:

- OF ALL THE HUMAN TRADITIONS taught and practiced by the Roman Catholic Church, which are contrary to the Bible, the most ancient are the **prayers for the dead** and the **sign of the Cross**. Both began around 300 years after Christ.
- The **worship of Mary**, the mother of Jesus, and the use of the term, "Mother of God", as applied to her, originated in the Council of Ephesus around 431 AD.
- The doctrine of **Purgatory was first established** by Gregory the Great in 593 AD. The Bible teaches that we pray to God alone. In the primitive church never were **prayers directed to Mary**, or to dead saints. This practice began in the Roman Church around 600 Ad. (**Matthew 11:28; Luke 1:46; Acts 10:25-26; 14:14-18**)

- The **Papacy** is of pagan origin. The title of **pope** or universal bishop, was first given to the bishop of Rome by the wicked emperor Phocas. This he did to spite Bishop Ciriacus of Constantinople, who had justly excommunicated him for his having caused the assassination of his predecessor emperor Mauritius. Gregory 1, then bishop of Rome, refused the title, but his successor, Boniface III, first assumed title "pope" IN 610 AD. Jesus did not appoint Peter to the headship of the apostles and forbade any such notion. (Luke 22:24-26; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1st Corinthians 3:11).

Note: Nor is there any mention in Scripture, nor in history, that Peter ever was in Rome, much less that he was pope there for 25 years; Clement, 3rd bishop of Rome, remarks that "there is no real 1st century evidence that Peter ever was in Rome."

- **Worship of the cross, images and relics** was authorized in 788 AD. This was by order of Dowager Empress Irene of Constantinople, who first caused to pluck the eyes of her own son, Constantine VI, and then called a church council at the request of Hadrian I, pope of Rome at that time. Such practice is called simply IDOLATRY in the Bible, and is severely condemned. (Read Exodus 20:4; 3:17; Deuteronomy 27:15; Psalm 115).
- **Canonization of dead saints**, first by Pope John XV in 995 AD. Every believer and follower of Christ is called saint in the Bible. (Read Romans 1:7; 1st Colossians 1:2).
- **Fasting on Fridays** and during **Lent** was imposed in 998 AD. Imposed by popes said to be interested in the commerce of fish. (Bull, or permit to eat meat), some authorities say, began in the year 700. This is against the plain teaching of the Bible. (Read Matthew 15:10; 1st Corinthians 10:25; 1st Timothy 4:1-3).
- The **Celibacy of the Priesthood** was decreed by Pope Hildebrand, Boniface VII in 1079 AD. Jesus imposed no such rule, nor did any of the apostles. On the contrary, St. Peter was a married man, and St. Paul says that bishops were to have wife

and children. (**Read 1st Timothy 3:2,5, and 12; Matthew 8:14-15**).

- The **Rosary**, or prayer beads was introduced by Peter the Hermit, in the year 1090. Copied from Hindus and Mohammedans. The counting of prayers is a pagan practice and is expressly condemned by Christ. (**Matthew 6:5-13**).
- The dogma of **Transubstantiation** was decreed by Pope Innocent III, in the year 1215 AD. By this doctrine the priest pretends to perform a daily miracle by changing a wafer into the body of Christ, and then he pretends to eat Him alive in the presence of his people during Mass. The Bible condemns such absurdities; for the Lord's Supper is simply a memorial of the sacrifice of Christ. The spiritual presence of Christ is implied in the Lord's Supper. (**Read Luke 22:19-20; John 6:35; 1st Corinthians 11:26**).
- **Confession of sin to the priest** at least once a year was instituted by Pope Innocent III., in the Lateran Council of 1215 AD. The Bible commands us to confess our sins direct to God. (**Read Psalm 51:1-10; Luke 7:48; 15:21; 1st John 1:8-9**).
- The **Bible forbidden** to laymen and placed in the Index of forbidden books by the Council of Valencia in 1229 AD. Jesus commanded that the Scriptures should be read by all. (**John 5:39; 1st Timothy 3:15-17**).
- The **doctrine of Purgatory** was proclaimed as a dogma of faith by Council of Florence in 1439 AD. There is not one word in the Bible that would teach the purgatory of priests. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sins. (**Read 1st John 1:7-9; 2:1-2; John 5:24; Romans 8:1**).
- The Council of Trent, held in the year 1545, declared that **Tradition** is of equal authority with the Bible. By tradition is meant human teachings. The Pharisees believed the same way, and Jesus bitterly condemned them, for by teaching human tradition, they nullified the commandments of God. (**Read Mark 7:7-13; Colossians 2:8; Revelation 22:18**).

- The **apocryphal books** were added to the Bible also by the Council of Trent in 1545 AD. These books were not recognized as canonical by the Jewish Church. (See Revelation 22:8-9).
- The **Creed of Pope Pius IV** was imposed as the official creed 1560 years after Christ and the apostles. True Christians retain the Holy Scriptures as their creed. Hence their creed is 1500 years older than the creed of Roman Catholics. (Read Galatians 1:8).
- The **Immaculate Conception** of the Virgin Mary was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1834. The Bible states that all men, with the sole exception of Christ, are sinners. Mary herself had need of a Savior. (Read Romans 3:23; 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Luke 1:30,46,47).
- In the year 1870 after Christ, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of **Papal Infallibility**. This is a blasphemy and the sign of the apostasy and of the antichrist predicted by St. Paul. (Read 2nd Thessalonians 2:2-12; Revelation 17:1-9; 13:5-8,18). Many Bible students see the number of the beast (Rev. 13:18), 666 in the Roman letters of the Pope's title: "VICARIVS FILII DEI." - - V-5, I-1; C-100, I-1; V-S, I-1; L-50, I-1; I-1; D-500, I-1 — Total, 666.
- In the year 1931 the same pope Pius XI, reaffirmed the doctrine that Mary is "**the Mother of God**". This doctrine was first invented by the Council of Ephesus in the year 431. This is a heresy contrary by Mary's own words. (Read Luke 1:46-49; John 2: 1-5).
- In the year 1950 the last dogma was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII, the **Assumption of the Virgin Mary**

(Compiled by Rev. Stephen L. Testa)

Heresies In The Protestant Church

Here are a few false teachings that have crept into our protestant churches.

Salvation By Works...this false doctrine puts our eternal security on a foundation of good works. That is never enough to attain salvation. It also negates the finished work of Christ on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. It also diminishes the concept of a free gift from God that came as a result of His matchless love for us as declared in **John 3:16**.

The House of God Doctrine...this false teaching is that the brick and mortar building is the temple of God and that believers are to keep it holy and be there every time the doors open. It's teaching is that you meet God there, not on the streets of your city or in the quietness of your own heart. This is contrary to **I Cor. 6:19** which says, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" The correct theological view is that we, "all Born Again" believers, are the house of God. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."(I Peter 2:5) Next time you go to church, call it a believer's fellowship, not the house of God. You are His house.

Mandatory Tithing...Tithing was exemplified in the Old Testament but the New Testament teaches that we are a new creature in Christ and thus all that we are and have belongs to God. **Matthew 16:24-26** says, "Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Rev. John Walvoord, a Christian theologian, pastor, and president of Dallas Theological Seminary from 1952 to 1986 has a right perspective. Here's what he says, (*Major Bible Themes, Revised*) Grand Rapids: Academie Books

"In matters pertaining to the giving of money, the grace principle involves the believer's recognition of God's sovereign authority over all that the Christian is and has, and contrasts with the Old Testament legal system of tithing which was in force as a part of the law until the law was done away with (**John 1:16-17; Rom. 6:14; 7:1-6; 2 Cor. 3:1-18; Gal. 3:19-25; 5:18; Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14**). Though certain principles of the law were carried forward and restated under grace, tithing, like the Sabbath observance, was never imposed on the believer in this dispensation. Since the Lord's Day superseded the legal Sabbath and is adapted to the principles of grace as the Sabbath could not be, so tithing has been superseded by a new system of giving which is adapted to the teachings of grace, as tithing could not be."

Their giving was not by commandment **1 Cor. 8:8**, nor of necessity **II Cor. 9:7**. Under the law, a tenth was commanded and its payment was a necessity; under grace, God is not seeking the gift, but an expression of devotion from the giver. Under grace no law is imposed and no proportion to be given is stipulated, and, while it is true that God works in the yielded heart both to will and to do of His good pleasure (**Phil. 2:13**), He finds pleasure only in that gift which is given cheerfully, or more literally, "hilariously" (**II Cor. 9:7**)

The early Christians, first of all, gave themselves. Acceptable giving is preceded by a complete giving of oneself (**II Cor. 8:5**). God never imposed tithing on any other than the nation of Israel (**Lev. 27:34; Num. 18:23-24; Mal. 3:7-10**).

God sustains the giver. God will sustain grace giving with limitless temporal resources (**II Cor. 9:8-10; Luke 6:38**). In this connection it may be seen that those who give as much as a tenth are usually prosperous in temporal things, but since the believer can have no relation to the **law (Gal. 5:1)**, it is evident that this prosperity is the fulfillment of the promise under grace, rather than the fulfillment of promises under the law. No blessings are thus dependent on exact tithing. Remember, Jesus said in **Mathew 6:33** that these things, meaning stuff that the world seeks after, will be added to the believer as he seeks God and His righteousness. He did not say if you tithe 10%.

God loves a cheerful giver that offers his or her entire being and fortune. Grace giving is what God lays on your heart, not what an Old Testament law dictates. Does this then free the New Testament believer of any obligation to support God's work of grace? No, it does not. Grace giving frees the believer to *hear from God* and opens the door to giving what is placed upon his or her heart. I realize that this teaching lends itself to a less than 10% tithe because of the greed of many or selfishness of some. However, it also promotes giving as a happy cheerful experience that is born out of a close walk with the Lord. We must first hear from God before we give. 10% can easily be an escape from having to hear from God. Remember, under grace, it all belongs to God. We are only Stewards of His blessings.

Man's Purpose Is Self Determined...Most folks, even Christians, have very little understanding as to where they came from, why they are here and where they are going when they die. We are told that we need to find our slot in life, our purpose, as though it were a profession or job. Only then will we be happy and find peace. This is not in line with Biblical teaching.

God gave us our purpose in Genesis chapter one, **to be the image of God**, His very reflection on the earth. That's a lot different than being a Doctor, Marketing Director or some other profession. His Divine will, will prevail in leading us to a work related job, if we listen to Him and follow His lead. What we take with us along life's way is our character. If we are tuned into God's Spirit, allowing Him to bring forth the life of Jesus in us, we will begin to manifest the fruit of the Spirit as shown in **Galatians 5:22**, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

If we are filled with the Spirit, as we are commanded, (Ephesians 5:18), we will display Godly fruit in our lives. I believe that doing this is letting our light so shine as Jesus asked us to do. **(Mathew 5:16)**

Man of God Supremacy...this is a false teaching. It says that the pastor or some other church leader is the Man of God and therefore cannot be questioned. His word is final. This goes directly against the

teaching in **I Cor.12:7-11** that says, “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another [divers] kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”

Husband Lordship...this false teaching puts the wife under the foot of her husband and encourages the male to dominate the female as though she were a 2nd class citizen. It goes against the biblical teaching of Ephesians 5:22-33, “²²Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.

²⁴Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

²⁸So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

²⁹For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

³⁰For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

³¹For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Husbands and wives are to submit to one another in a bond of love. Yes the husband is the head but that headship is to lead from a position of love counting on the wife for counsel as a helpmeet, knowing that he is not fully equipped to accomplish all that God wants for him.

We are all children of God; therefore, there is no need to be, “Born Again”... We are not all children of God. Listen to Paul as he writes to the church at Corinth. “**2 Corinthians 6:14** - Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? Paul describes two types of folks, light and darkness. The children of light are righteous (In Christ) while the children of the darkness are unrighteous (Dwelling in sin). Being a child of the darkness is to be a child of disobedience. “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: **Ephesians 2:2**

Being, Born Again” is a prerequisite to salvation. You cannot enter God’s Kingdom without first being born again. See John chapter three.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit ended with the death of the apostles... The biggest issue is found in speaking in tongues. This has divided many a fellowship. Some use the gift to edify themselves and communicate spirit to Spirit with God. Others insist that this century has no need for tongues and they, with all the rest of the gifts, were stopped with the death of the Apostles.

Here’s some food for thought.

1. The gifts validated Jesus’ claim that He was the Messiah, the Christ. They were bestowed upon His followers to continue that

validation. Why would that not be needed now in our generation?

2. The gifts were given to the followers of Jesus to help the body to grow and become one. The words of wisdom, knowledge, miracles, and even tongues were all aimed at bringing unity and purpose to God's people. Isn't that still needed in today's world?
3. There are way more people in today's world, (20 times more), than back in Jesus' day. Isn't the need for Holy Spirit power through the gifts needed more now than ever before?
4. The Apostles laid hands on new believers, that were not Apostles, and they received the gifts and began to operate in them. They were passed on and on from anointed believer to new convert. Why would that need to stop? That which is perfect has not yet come.

Satan's deception is obvious in this matter. He has deceived many in believing they do not need even one Holy Spirit gift because it is a thing of the past. This is a practical stripping of power and stealing of authority. If you do not believe that you can discern spirits, you'll never try. If you do not believe that God can and will give you a word of wisdom or a word of knowledge, you'll miss out on His will and end up groping in the dark for answers. The gifts are needed today more than ever before.

The Dangers of False Doctrines

(American Standard Version)

Ephesians 4:14 ...We are no longer to be children, *tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine*, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

1 Timothy 1:18-20 ...This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and *suffered shipwreck* in regard to their faith. Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 2:16-18...But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for *it will lead to further ungodliness*, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

Titus 1:10-11...For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because *they are upsetting whole families*, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

Hebrews 13:9 ...Do not be *carried away by varied and strange teachings*; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

2 Peter 3:17 ...You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men *and fall from your own steadfastness*.

Romans 16:17-18 ...Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech *they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting*.

1 Timothy 1:3-4 ...As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, *which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith*.

Galatians 1:8-9...But even if we, or an angel from heaven, *should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you*, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

2 Peter 2:1... But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, *who will secretly introduce destructive heresies*, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Excerpts from [Knowing Jesus.com](http://KnowingJesus.com)

Biblical Warnings About Counterfeits

1 John 4:1...Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ASV

Galatians 1:6-7 ...I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ASV

2 Corinthians 11:13 ...For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

Matthew 24:23-24... "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Conclusion

It should be noted that Heresy is not restricted to religion. It is a contrary opinion or set of rules that go against an established doctrine. In the above cases, the disregard for original Biblical truth makes it a heresy. The fact that the 1st apostles, who walked with and were taught by Jesus, fought against most of these heresies proves that what was being introduced to the church, as a new doctrine was false.

As I have mentioned previously, the best way to not get caught up in false teachings is to know the truth. It will set you free and keep you in the Will of God.

One final scripture...**Colossians 2:8**... Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

