

1. Because of the apostasy it is clear that, as in generations past, there are false teachers in the church today

(Acts 20:29-30; 1 Tim 4:1-3; 2 Tim 4:1-4; 2 Cor 2:17)

2. God calls those who teach in the church

- a) to teach with integrity, reverence and incorruptibility
- b) to pay attention to how they teach and live
- c) to retain the pattern of sound words in the Scripture
- d) not to be carried away by varied and strange teachings
- e) to handle the word of truth accurately
- f) to hate and abhor all that is false

(Titus 2:7-8 NIV; 1 Tim 4:16; 2 Tim 1:13; Titus 2:1; Heb 13:9a; 2 Tim 2:15; Ps 119:104, 163, Prov 13:5a)

3. Those who preach and teach are to be held to the high standard prescribed in Scripture because they will face a stricter judgment, a greater condemnation than those they teach

(James 3:1)

4. False teachers are those who propagate views, perspectives and proclamations claimed to be truthful yet which contradict or distort what the Bible teaches

5. Particularly dangerous to the church are false teachings concerning the foundational and central tenets of the Christian faith:

- a) the Bible as the source of revelation
 - is there a denial of the Bible's
 - divine inspiration
 - reliable history and science
 - a denial of the uniqueness of the Bible
 - is the Bible seen as on one level with
 - church tradition or culture
 - visions, dreams or human imagination
 - human wisdom and reasoning
 - is the Bible trivialized or treated with contempt however subtle
- b) the nature and person of Jesus Christ
 - is there a denial of
 - Jesus' full humanity AND full deity
 - Jesus' uniqueness and supremacy
 - the Trinity
- c) how salvation is gained and maintained
 - is there a denial of the need for salvation from sin and judgment
 - is the gospel social or political
 - is salvation by human merit, by works
 - is there a denial of man's total inability
 - is there a denial of sovereign grace
 - is grace used as an excuse to sin

6. False teachers must be dealt with because their errors have a devastating impact on individuals as well as on the church as a whole:

- a) they exalt human reasoning and diminish or avoid the infinite wisdom of God
- b) they make Christ of no benefit
- c) they cause the way of truth to be maligned
- d) they promote controversies rather than God's work which is by faith
- e) they cause divisions and put obstacles in the way of believers
- f) they alienate people from those who teach the truth
- g) they bewitch, disturb, and trouble believers and try to bring them into bondage again
- h) they toss people back and forth with their deceitful scheming
- i) they cause people to be shaken
- j) their lies lead to the ruin of the hearers

(Gal 5:2,4; 2 Pet 2:2; 1 Tim 1:4 NIV; Rom 16:17-18; Gal 4:17NIV; Gal 1:7, 3:1, 5:1, 12; Eph 4:14; 2 Thess 2:2; 2 Tim 2:14)