

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 2

Lesson 33

THE NEED TO CONFRONT

20 March, 2015

Verses 10-15 lists at least 21 characteristics of false teachers. When you witness to people on a daily basis, you will have plenty of opportunities to observe these same traits; you'll see the results of the harm done by false teachers as you take time to tell people about Jesus, confronting people about their need of a Savior.

1. They walk after the flesh (vs. 10).
2. They pursue uncleanness (vs. 10).
3. They despise any type of authority (vs. 10).
4. They are presumptuous (vs. 10).
5. They are self-willed (vs. 10).
6. They are not afraid to speak against dignities (vs. 10).
7. They live as natural brute beasts (vs. 12).
8. They perish in their own corruption (vs. 12).
9. They speak evil of what they don't understand (vs. 12).
10. They earn the reward of unrighteousness (vs.12).
11. They count it pleasure to riot (vs. 13).
12. They're spots and blemishes (vs. 13). They don't mind being spotted.
13. They sport in deceit (vs. 13). (Like con artists).
14. They have eyes full of adultery (vs. 14).
15. They cannot cease from sin (vs. 14). Their sinful habits have taken control of them.
16. They beguile unstable souls (vs. 14). They lie to the naïve to get what they want.
17. They have a covetous heart (vs. 14). Worldly riches and status are more important than serving God.
18. They are "cursed children." (vs. 14). They could enjoy the blessings of God if they wanted, but because they won't speak up for the Savior, they experience the curses instead (context: like Lot's daughters).
19. They have forsaken the right way (vs. 15).
20. They have gone astray (vs. 15).
21. They follow the way of Balaam (vs. 15). They love the wages of unrighteousness.

It is necessary for Christians to speak against what is wrong—in order to help people to stand upon that which is right. People may initially feel that you're criticizing their religion or their practices, but the Holy Ghost can take the words they heard from you and disturb their lives so much that they'll eventually recognize the error and receive the truth.

When you believe the Word of God it brings you light and fills you with a love for others, which compels you to offer THEM the light that God has given YOU.

When you try to correct the practices of people by showing them what the Bible says about it, they have two choices. They can either ignore the Bible and continue in their error, or they can take the correction properly and change their practices to line up with the Bible.

Men “**walk after the flesh**” today (vs. 10). They’re thankful for warnings concerning health dangers, but when you give them spiritual warnings concerning their eternal soul or the effects that sin has on their relationships, they are offended. You are exercising kindness when you give the warning, but it is perceived by people as being unkind and mean.

Presumptuous and self-willed: (Psalm 19:13). False teachers want you to presume (suppose, believe) that God really didn’t say what God said or mean what God meant or that He’ll do what He said He will do. They want you to presume that there are no real consequences to sin; that sin won’t cost you anything; that they can safely ignore the Word of God. The true teacher of God’s Word wants you to believe what God said.

Don’t let anyone convince you that you’re “unkind” or “hateful” or “negative” when you bring the Gospel message to the people. If you believe Hell is REAL and Heaven is REAL, then you would be hateful and unkind NOT to tell someone about it!

2 Peter chapter 2 lists the horrible condition of people who don’t know the truth. Therefore it is extremely important that we BRING them the truth, no matter what kind of hostile responses or criticisms we might have to endure. We tell people how harmful a sinful lifestyle is because we don’t like to see them hurt.

2 Peter 2:17 Those who don’t know Jesus are going to spend eternity in “**the mist of darkness.**” Therefore it is the act of supreme love for you to tell your neighbor about Jesus Christ and to PLEAD with them to come to Him. It’s NOT hate, its love.
