



2 Peter 2 : False Teachers

For the last 2000 years, the Gospel message has been provocative. There is compromise in the message: Jesus did not come to earth to only say the things we want to hear, the things that makes us feel good about ourselves, but to save us by explaining how we are sinners.

When people go to church and only ever leave feeling good about themselves, with no conviction, we are failing.

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:17

The church of satanism is not so much about sacrificing animals or worshipping demons. The whole idea behind satanism is to do exactly what you want to do, when you want to do it. Doing what makes you feel good, when it makes you feel good. In satanism, you are god and you decide what is best for yourself. A little bit like hedonism...

Hedonism is a school of thought that argues that seeking pleasure and avoiding suffering are the components of well-being. Unfortunately, too often in our churches, we are more hedonistic than we are Christ-like. We go to church because we want to receive—we want to get something out of it. The day the church doesn't please us anymore, we go somewhere else. We change churches like we change socks.

When we stop treating Church like a shopping center for our soul, we will be able to receive what God has for us.

Remember: Jesus never said it was going to be easy to be a Christian. As a matter of fact, he said quite the opposite. Being a follower of Christ is hard. There is no denying that.

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7: 13-14

Yes, Jesus is love, but like Pastor Ármann reminded us, let's not forget the other things that compose the character of God, like holiness, righteousness, and justice. These are also things Jesus preached about, and the things false teachers tend to avoid.

These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them." If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

2 Peter 2: 17-22

False teachers are not only heretics who teach wrong theology. A false teacher can also be someone who teaches part of the truth, and hides the more controversial elements of the Gospel. There is a need for the Church to stand up and proclaim the way of Jesus, in full.

DISCUSSION

- Pastor Ármann encouraged us to be the church, not to play church. He also told us that bad interpretation leads to bad application. How can we avoid the trap of bad interpretation? Should Christians challenge each other on their beliefs?
- The reality is: we have likely all made some sort of compromise when we explain Jesus and the Gospel to make it sound “cool”, and less provocative than it actually is. On some level, we are all guilty of being false teachers. Can you recall a moment when you compromised the message of Jesus?
- Jesus is very clear on what will happen to false teachers. Why do you think Jesus is so black and white?
- All of us face the danger of becoming a false teacher. How can we avoid this? How can we make sure we teach the Gospel in full?

POSTURING

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” James 5:16

Confession: (admit, acknowledge, reveal, make known)

- In light of our conversation, is there anything that the Lord is asking you to confess and be made known?

“Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!”

Ps 106:1

Thanksgiving: (a prayer expressing gratitude)

- Thank Him for all that He has promised and for His faithfulness upon your life.

EMPOWER

“God will strengthen you with His own great power so that you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient. And you will joyfully give thanks to the Father who has made you able to have a share in all that He has prepared for His people in the kingdom of light.”

Colossians 1:11,12

- Pray for each other for strength, strategy, wisdom etc.
- Listen in prayer for words of encouragement and edification.
- Spur each other on!