

# Discerning What Is Truly Of God

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August 22, 2010

## Text

1 Corinthians 12 : 1 -3 , John 3 : 31 , 34a

## Objectives

1. To discern whether or not a messenger is really from God.
2. To learn how to tell the difference between true and false doctrine.

## Introduction:

Anyone can claim to speak for God and the world is full of false teachers. God communicates / speaks to people in various ways, we must be attentive and must have the discerning spirit to know that is truly of God.

## Definition

Discerning –Having or revealing keen insight and good judgement, perceptive ( to achieve understanding ).

Man can understand how things work by means of knowledge but you need to have the wisdom to know how it was done / made.

Example cars are made to transport people / things but how the car runs and was made you need for further study or consult an expert. In spiritual , The expert is the Lord Jesus Christ

## Distinguishing a Teacher and a False teacher

Teacher = A teacher is a person who teaches the Word of God through divine direction.

False Teacher = A person who does NOT teach the Word of God through divine direction.

## Characteristics of False Teachers

1. Grace-perversers (Twisters) Gal 1:6-8 , e.g perversion of original marriage-  
Now making marriage between man and man
2. Money-lovers Luke 16:14
3. Christ-deniers 2 Pet 2:1
4. Truth-resistors 2 Tim 3:8

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5. Fable(Senseless stories)-lovers 2 Tim 4:3,4
6. Destitute of truth 1 Tim 6:3-5
7. Bound by traditions Matt 15:9
8. Unstable 1 Tim 1:6,7
9. Deceitful Eph 4:14
10. Lustful 2 Pet 1:12-19

## Characteristics of a Teacher

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.” (2 Timothy 2:24 )

1. “ Be Straight.” Soundness in doctrine is absolutely essential, the most vital criterion of all. ( 2 Tim 1:13 ; 2:16 ; 4:2,3 ) Straight doctrine is the basis of everything.
2. “ Be Strong.” One can be strong and gentle at the same time, and this is what God requires.” ( 2 Tim 2:1 )-e.g Ox- example of strength and meekness
3. “ Be Studios.” The Lord has given us His inspired word, and a “sound mind” with which to study it, as well as “ the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us” (2Tim1:7,14). To illuminate it, and He expects us to be diligent in it’s use.” Study...2 Tim 2:15”.
4. “ Be Steadfast .” In the last days, Apostle Paul foresees the awful spiritual and moral conditions of man and surely enough to intimidate and discourage any Christians ( 2 Tim 3:14 ).

Regardless of circumstances, a Christian teacher must maintain sound doctrine, be both strong and gracious, be diligent in handling the Scriptures, and just “*live there*” in the Word of God.

## Conclusion

The Bible makes it abundantly clear that false teachers will deceive many people into believing false doctrines. The only way to know for sure that you are right with God is to know what He has to say and trust Him rather than men. ( 2 Peter 2:1 ) Is what you’re “hearing” consistent with the life, teachings, and Lordship of Jesus? What is truly of God leads to increased in Jesus ( the ultimate authority ) and honors Jesus Christ.