

How Can We Know Which Preacher Is Telling Us The Truth?

A few weeks ago, a Bible Crossfire caller wanted to know "How Can We Know Which Preacher Is Telling Us The Truth?" I gave him an answer then, but I want to go more in-depth now.

This is a very important question because Jesus said in Matt 15:14 "[Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.](#)" In the this verse the blind leader represents the false teach and the blind follower represents us if we allow the false religious teacher to lead us astray, and the ditch represents the bad place. So if we allow a false religious teacher to lead us astray, we will be lost just like the false teacher will be.

Then just how do we keep from being led astray by a false teacher; in the words of the caller - How Can We Know Which Preacher Is Telling Us The Truth? An important verse to keep in mind in this regard is Acts 17:11 which reads "[These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.](#)" So the Bereans are given the highest of compliments by God because they didn't just accept what Paul preached blindly; instead they compare what he was teaching to the scriptures to make sure it was so.

Let me illustration how to do this with several examples ...

First, most churches allow women to preach from the pulpit. But we have clear text that teach otherwise, for example, I Cor 14:34-35 "[Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.](#)" So you can tell which preacher is telling you the truth simply by comparing what they preach on the women preachers issue to this verse. Isn't it clear?

Some might wonder about passages like Acts 21:9 that show that women did prophesied, but in a case like that, what you should do is figure out how both passages can be true. Don't just ignore one and hold to the other, but what position means that both passages are true? Well if one scripture shows a woman can prophecy (teach God's word), and another scripture says she can't teach in church, what should our conclusion be? - that a woman can teach God's word, but not in the church assembly. That's really a simple concept to make all passages true, but most don't follow it. We should know that if God wrote the Bible, everything in it (all verses) will be true.

Another illustrative example is how do you tell what the truth on divorce and remarriage. It used to be taught that second and third marriages must be terminated, but now most preachers will tell you it is okay to stay in a second marriage. What did Jesus say in Matt 19:9? - "[... Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.](#)" That's pretty clear isn't it? Jesus is calling these second marriages adulterous, and surely we understand that a faithful Christian cannot live in adultery. Even before the New Testament went into effect, John the Baptist told Herod (who was in a second marriage) in Matt 14:4 - "[It is not lawful for thee to have her.](#)" Why would we think it is any different today? Does a change in culture change the teaching of God's word somehow?