

■ SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS ...

FROM JUDE 10-16 ...

- They blaspheme all that they do not understand.
- They abandon themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error.
- They are like shepherds who feed themselves.
- They are like waterless clouds, swept along by winds.
- They are like fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted.
- They are like wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame.
- They are like wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.
- They are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires.
- They are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

FROM 2 PETER 2:15-22 ...

- Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray.
- They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing,
- They are like waterless springs and mists driven by a storm.
- For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.
- They speak loud boasts of folly.
- They entice by sensual passions of the flesh.
- They pray on those who are vulnerable to error.
- They promise freedom but are themselves are slaves of corruption.
- Their last state has become worse for them than the first.

- **(Jude 16 GW) These people complain, find fault, follow their own desires, say arrogant things, and flatter people in order to take advantage of them.**

BUT THEY DRESS LIKE SHEEP!



**TALK ABOUT CROSS DRESSING!
WOE, DUDE!**

■ FALSE TEACHING HAD COMPROMISED THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM, AND CHRIST WAS CALLING THEM TO REPENT!

- (Revelation 2:14-15) But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- “Some there who hold **the teaching of Balaam** ... also some who hold **the teaching of the Nicolaitans.**”

They are several theories as to what the false teaching of Balaam was but none really seem to be conclusive. And this is even more true concerning the false teaching of the Nicolaitans. So a good course of action would be to focus on what we do know.

■ WHAT WE DO KNOW!

- **ONE:** False teaching is sin and tolerating false teaching is sin. Compromising the teaching of God's word is always sin. Christ calls them to repent of their sin and confronts them with the gravity of their situation. They had better hear his words now as he stands before them with his double-edged sword.
- **TWO:** As humans, our tendency is often to rationalize, especially in an attempt to avoid confrontation, especially in the church it seems. But “turning a blind eye” to any form of false teaching dishonors God and his word of truth.
- **THREE:** God gives us windows of grace, windows of opportunity to make the right choice. But he will bring us to a moment of decision. For the church at Pergamum that time was now. God has recognized their faithfulness and loyalty but now is the time to deal with the false teachers if they are to remain faithful and loyal.
- **FOUR:** The people in the church at Pergamum were in imminent danger of a war with Jesus Christ.
- **FIVE:** This is a common challenge for the Church in all ages. Why do I say that? Because we are given this for an example and a warning. Our Lord specifically chose these seven churches in Revelation 2-3 for us to learn from.
- **SIX:** Wonderful rewards come to the one who overcomes. One being, secret food—hidden manna. See John 4:32 for a possible hint.