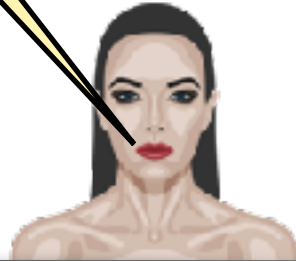


"Don't want to lose either your job
or your church membership?"

"I can fix that!"



Your Teacher, Jezebel

- (Revelation 2:20 ESV) But I have this against you, that you **tolerate** that woman **Jezebel**, who **calls herself a prophetess and is teaching** and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.
- (2 John 9 HCSB) Anyone who **does not remain in Christ's teaching but goes beyond** it, does not have God. The one who remains in that teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son.
- (Ezekiel 13:10 ESV) Precisely because they have misled my people, saying, "Peace," when there is no peace, and because, **when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash.**
- (Proverbs 14:12 ESV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to **death.**
- (2 Peter 2:1 ESV) But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves **swift destruction.**
- (Matthew 7:13 ESV) Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to **destruction**, and those who enter by it are many.

PROFILE OF A FALSE TEACHER ...

(I) A false teacher presumes position (Revelation 2:20).

- Jezebel was self-anointed and self-proclaimed. Jezebel "calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols." No calling or commissioning necessary for the false teacher. She presumed that she was a person who could speak for God to God's people.

(II) A false teacher has special knowledge (2 John 9).

- A false teacher presumes to have special knowledge, as in being one who better understands the secrets of true spirituality. Jezebel considered herself to have greater spiritual perception than most and, equipped with this special knowledge, she goes beyond the direct, objective confirmation of the Bible. Her ideas and opinions are untethered by Scripture. In Jezebel's case this special knowledge was "the deep things of Satan" and this special insight enabled her to reach past the constraints of Scripture. As a false teacher she would use the Bible but would not be limited by the Bible.

(III) A false teacher is a fixer (Ezekiel 13:10).

- The people in Thyatira had a real problem, and Jezebel fixed it. If the members of this fellowship completely fulfilled their obligation to the trade unions, then they would violate the teaching of Scripture and jeopardize their standing in the church. But if they wholeheartedly obeyed the word of God and refused to take part in the idolatry and the sex that was part of the idolatry, then they would jeopardize their jobs. Jezebel "fixed" this by increasing the tolerance levels of idolatry and immorality past the prescribed levels approved in Scripture. Problem solved.

(IV) A false teacher brings death and destruction (2 Peter 2:1).

- The wide road always leads to destruction. Always. There is no other destination for someone on the wide road. We may be incredulous as to how these people fell into such blatant sin, and in doing so we would reveal our own faulty standards. We would make the mistake of judging one sin or "indiscretion" above or below another. How? Because in doing this we would reveal our reliance on our own personal man-made standard of compliance. The deceived person believes that their "tolerance levels" are acceptable, even if they are not aligned with the word of God. Simply stated: "Your sin is worse than their sin."