

# FALSE TEACHERS AND PREACHERS

## **(A) WHO IS A TEACHER?**

The word “teacher” comes from a Hebrew word *Koheleth* which has the root meaning “to assemble.” In the [modern] Greek, **teacher** is translated as *dáskalos*, which is equivalent to the Hebrew word *koheleth*.

**Teacher** was used in the Old Testament to refer to one who called others before him to deliver information to them: The word *teacher* or *preacher* was mostly used to refer to Solomon of the Old Testament (see Prov 3:1; Eccl 1:1; 12:9-10). Jesús was a teacher [Rabbi] (Matt 26:25, 49; John 1:38, 49; 3:1-2; 7:16; 18:20).

According to the New Testament, God endorses the gift of teaching in the Church (1 Co 12:28; 14:26; Eph 4:11), but declines the concept of “women pastors or teachers” (1 Tim 2:8-15; compare 1 Co 14:34-36; Rev 2:20-23). In terms of evangelism, every Christian is commissioned to evangelize (Matt 28:19), but the Church is supposed to be taught (Matt 28:20) by *men alone* and not women.

From the biblical point of view, **teacher** is a servant of God who ministers to the assembly or a group of audience prepared for a specific goal or purpose geared towards the same fate. Thus, teachers instruct the church with the doctrine of Christ against the teachings of demons and the doctrines of men.

## **The Duties Of God's Teachers In The Church**

**(i)** The key function of the Bible teacher is to instruct the Church about the commandments of Christ (Matt 28:19-20).

**(ii)** Teachers generally instruct the wise and teach the righteous (Prov 9:9).

**(iii)** Teachers teach the first principles of the Oracles of God (Heb 5:12), as mysteries unveiled to the Church through the Apostles of Christ (Eph 2:20-22).

- (iv)** Teachers teach sound doctrine that can edify the Church in faith (1 Tim 1:3-4, 10).
- (v)** Teachers are to help the Church distinguish between the teachings of demons (1 Tim 4:1-2), teachings of men (Matt 15:9; 2 Pet 2:1-3), and the teachings of Christ through the Holy Spirit (1 Co 2:4).
- (vi)** Teachers are positioned to protect the pattern of sound words that was given from the foundation of the Church in faith and love (2 Tim 1:13).
- (vii)** Teachers are to guide and counsel the Church to the narrow gate in Christ (Psalm 32:8; see Matt 7:13-14).
- (viii)** Teachers teach the decrees and instructions of the Lord (Ex 18:20; see also Gal 6:6).
- (ix)** They are to command and teach to exercise their selves spiritually unto godliness (1 Tim 4:7-11).
- (x)** They are to train faithful men to be teachers of the truth (2 Tim 2:2; compare Luke 6:40).
- (xi)** They meditate God's statutes for more insight in His word (Psalm 119:99; see 1 Jn 2:27).
- (xii)** They move forward the Church to attain the matured teachings of Christ (Heb 6:1-2).
- (xiii)** They instruct the opposers of the truth in meekness to help attain sound doctrine (2 Tim 2:24-26).
- (xiv)** The teacher must show integrity in his teaching with seriousness and soundness of speech (Titus 2:7-8).

## **(B) WHO IS A PREACHER?**

**Preacher** is one who proclaims the truth of the gospel (2 Tim 4:2) to the lost (Rom 10:14-15), or warns the world against evil or anything that contradicts the sound doctrine of Christ (1 Tim 1:10).

*Teachers instruct the church and preachers spread the message of the cross to the lost or unbelievers.* The local assemblies are governed by teachers and elders, from the biblical perspective, unlike the modern congregations where preachers are seen as the “bosses” of some local churches.

The preacher ought to be an example to the believers in the church in word and godliness (1 Tim 4:12; 6:11; Titus 2:7), in order to shun false teachings both inside and outside the Church (1 Tim 4:7; 6:20-21). Preachers help set forth selected elders (1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9), and reprove elders who sin (1 Tim 5:19-21).

### **Characteristics Of Preaching: The Work Of The Preacher**

1. Preaching is the work of an Evangelist (2 Tim 4:5; see Acts 21:8).
2. Preaching is a ministry of believers to unbelievers, for salvation (Rom 10:14-15; 1:15; Gal 4:13).
3. Preaching is the act of making disciples for Christ from all nations (Matt 28:19).
4. It is the proclamation of the gospel of Christ (1 Co 15:1-18) to the lost (Matt 10:5-7; Acts 5:42).
5. It is the act of reproof, rebuking, and exhorting one with God's word (2 Tim 4:2).
6. The word in preaching cries out to people against wickedness (Jonah 1:1-2).
7. It is the ministry given according to the power of God, to proclaim the unfathomable riches in Christ (Eph 3:7-9).
8. It is the proclamation of peace to those who are afar off and those who are near (Acts 8:4; Eph 2:17).

9. It is a missionary work (Acts 19:1), to different towns and cities (Mark 1:38; Luke 4:43).
10. The ministry is not according to the persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power of God (1 Co 2:4-5).
11. A message preached is a message taught [in the midst of a particular audience] (Acts 15:35).
12. The preacher ministers as a priest of the gospel of God (Rom 15:15-16).
13. Preachers can be selected by the church to preach outside the church (see Mark 3:14-15; Luke 9:1-2).
14. Preachers are entrusted with the gospel (Gal 2:7; 1 Thes 2:4; 1 Tim 1:11; Titus 1:3).
15. Preachers preach to protect the message of the cross of Christ (1 Co 1:17-18, 22-25).
16. They are completely devoted to the word, to testify to the unsaved (Acts 18:5; see also Rom 1:14-15; 1 Co 1:21).
17. Preaching is centered on Christ (1 Co 15:11; 2:2).
18. Every Christian is commissioned to preach (Mark 16:15-16).

### **(C) FALSE TEACHERS AND PREACHERS.**

**False teachers or preachers** are those figures who consciously or unconsciously disregard the truth of the gospel to endorse and spread fallacies, either to gain attention or divert believers from the path of salvation and godliness.

All false teachers or preachers can be biblically categorized into **two**;

- a. ***Those who consciously teach to divert the attention of believers from the truth:*** This category of people are conscious of what they say or do supported by their personal desires or the will of their evil masters (2 Tim 4:3-4).
- b. ***Those who ignorantly teach against the truth:*** They unconsciously teach others of what they think is true and sound in the fraternity of their faith and practices, without knowing the truth and the consequences of what they say or do (see Jude 10-12; compare Luke 23:34; 12:47-48; Acts 3:17-20).

### **(I) WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A FALSE TEACHER OR PREACHER?**

1. Teaching the doctrine of demons (1 Tim 4:1-5).
2. Promoting the doctrine of men (Matt 15:9) to shun the doctrine of Christ (Matt 28:20; Rom 6:17).
3. Teaching or preaching a different gospel that contradicts the gospel of Christ (Gal 1:6-9; compare 1 Co 15:1-8).
4. Thinking beyond what is written (1 Co 4:6; Rom 12:3).
5. Promoting private interpretation (2 Pet 1:20).
6. Abusing the scriptures (Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19).
7. Neglecting the weightier matters of the law of God (Matt 23:23).
8. Causing divisions and offenses contrary to the already laid down principles of truth and sound doctrine (Rom 16:17-18).

9. Speaking evil of whatever you do not know (Jude 10-12).

10. Peddling the word of God (2 Co 2:17).

## **(II) CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS AND PREACHERS.**

1. They are antichrists (1 John 2:18-19, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7).

2. They are heretical and defenders of falsehood (Matt 15:9; see Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19).

3. They encourage lawlessness (2 Thes 2:7-12; Matt 24:12).

4. They fail to study and teach/preach the truth (2 Tim 2:15-18; see 2 Tim 3:7).

5. They fail to teach according to the New Testament principle of sound doctrine (1 Tim 6:3-4; 2 John 9-11).

6. They creep to destroy homes and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins (2 Tim 3:6).

7. They divide the Church (Matt 12:30; Rom 16:17; compare Acts 20:29).

8. They do not love the truth (2 Thes 2:10-12).

9. They do not bear good fruit (Matt 7:16-20).

10. They are lukewarm (Matt 7:3-5; Rev 3:15-16).

11. They are not simple and sincere (2 Co 1:12).

12. They are arrogant (2 Pet 2:12-19; Jude 8-16).

13. They stand against the cross of Christ (Phil 3:18-19).

14. They desire to make good showing in the flesh (Gal 6:12-13).

15. They are deceitful workers [of the devil] (2 Co 11:13-15).

16. They cult others to follow their deceit (Gal 4:17).
17. They prioritize money and wealth (Micah 3:11; Rom 16:17-18).
18. They are greedy (Isaiah 56:11-12).
19. They are of the world (1 John 4:5-6).
20. They introduce destructive heresies to deny Christ (2 Pet 2:1-3).
21. They speak evil of dignitaries (2 Pet 2:10; Jude 8-10).
22. They do not understand what they say and the things they affirm (1 Tim 1:6-7).
23. They deal falsely (Jer 6:13-15).
24. They do not endorse the true teachers and preachers of the gospel of Christ (3 John 9-10).

### **(III) GOD'S RESPONSE TO FALSE TEACHERS AND PREACHERS.**

1. God diminishes false teachers and preachers who defile His sanctuary (Ezek 5:11-17).
2. God takes away from them what is dear to their hearts (Jer 8:10-12).
3. They have been given grace to repent (Rev 2:20-23).
4. God shall destroy false teachers and preachers (Phil 3:18-19; 2 Pet 2:3-10).
5. False teachers and preachers shall experience the blackness of darkness forever (Jude 13).

**(IV) HOW TO SHUN FALSE TEACHING AND PREACHING.**

1. Study the Scripture regularly (1 Tim 4:13,16).
2. Meditate the word of God day and night (Joshua 1:8).
3. Pray regularly (Luke 18:1; 1 Thes 5:17) to seek divine assistance (James 1:5-8; compare Luke 24:45).
4. Esteem God's word than your necessary food (Job 23:12; compare Psalm 119:10).
5. Take heed that no one deceives you (Matt 24:4).
6. Take heed to your ministry in Christ (1 Tim 4:12-16).
7. Be wise in what is good and simple concerning evil (Rom 16:19-20).
8. Avoid evil company (1 Co 15:33).
9. Avoid foolish controversies (Titus 3:9).
10. Do not speak evil of dignitaries (Jude 8-10).
11. Do not argue (2 Tim 2:24,25).
12. Renew your mind (Rom 12:2) and your steadfast spirit (Psalm 51:10) for positive thoughts in Christ (Phil 4:8-9; 2:5).
13. Do not forsake the gathering of the saints (1 Thes 3:10; Heb 10:25; 3:13).
14. Allow yourself to be rebuked by the word of God (2 Tim 4:2; Prov 12:1; 13:1,18).
15. Put the word of God into practice (Matt 5:15-16; compare Rom 10:17; James 1:22-25).
16. Teach others (2 Tim 2:2) to live like Christ (Eph 5:1-2), and humble to also learn from others (see Acts 15:1-12).
17. Control your secret life as a Christian (Eccl 12:14; Mark 4:22; Rom 2:15-16; 1 Co 4:5; Eph 5:11-13; Heb 4:13).

## **CONCLUSION:**

The study highlighted the true biblical principle of teaching and preaching against heresies and fallacies.

The study teaches the Church the need to endorse sound doctrine to shun the teachings of men and doctrines of demons.

As gifted Christians (Acts 4:33; Eph 4:7-8), we need to dissociate ourselves from false teachings and misconducts that defile the message of the cross of Christ, in all facets of life.

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