

## **Beware of False Christians (Matthew 7:15-20)**

“<sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

The word Christian “*Christianos*” in the Greek means a little Christ, or to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

#1. You will know false Christians by the type of tree they are (Vv.15-17)

- Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 John 2:4

### **Are you aware of false Christians?**

#2. You will know them by the fruit they produce (Vv.15-17)

#### The Fruits of a Fake Christian:

- The fruit of what they believe and teach (2 Timothy 4:3-4; Acts 20:28)
- The fruit of their actions (Titus 1:16; Luke 6:46)
- The fruit of their influence (2 Peter 2:1-3)

### **Do you know how to recognize false Christians?**

#3. What type of tree are you? (V19)

#### Have you examined your relationship with God?

- Have you examined your life to determine if you have the fruits of a relationship with Jesus? (2 Corinthians 13:5)
  - **Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus?**
- Have you allowed Jesus, through prayer, Bible study, and church fellowship, to examine your life? (Psalm 139:23-24; Jeremiah 17:9-10)
  - **How has Jesus changed your life daily?**
- Have you examined who love the world or Jesus? (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; 1 John 2:3-5)
  - **Do your actions, beliefs, words, and influence mirror Jesus?**