

2 Peter 2:1-3

TWISTED TRUTH

Identifying false teachers, their influence and motive,
& how do we remain faithful in light of this?



PELAGIANISM – DENIED THE DOCTRINE OF INHERITANCE OF ORIGINAL SIN, AND THEREFORE THE NEED FOR GODS DIVINE GRACE. PROMOTED THAT HUMANS CAN ACHIEVE HOLINESS THROUGH THEIR OWN MORAL EFFORTS.

IMPLICATION = MAKES SENSE, IF THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS INHERITED/IMPUTED SIN FROM ADAM, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH JESUS. (LEAVES ROMANS 5:18 USELESS) BUT MORAL UPRIGHTNESS DOESN'T SOLVE THE ISSUE OF THE GUILT OF INHERITED SIN.



MARCIONISM – IS DUALISTIC, MEANING IT PROMOTES THE IDEA THAT THERE ARE TWO GODS IN THE UNIVERSE. A GOD OF THE OT (EVIL AND HARSH) AND A GOD OF THE NT (LOVING AND GRACEFUL) WHO WAS SUPERIOR TO THAT OF THE OT, CLAIMING JESUS WAS MERELY SPIRIT WHO'D COME TO RESCUE MANKIND FROM THE EVIL GOD OF THE OT

IMPLICATION = TO DOWNPLAY THE OT, IS TO LOSE THE GOSPEL. TO SEPARATE A GOD INTO THE OT AND NT GODS IS TO NEGLECT THE TRINITY, AND EVEN JUDGEMENT.



GNOSTICISM – ARGUES THAT THE MATERIAL WORLD WE SEE, WAS CREATED EVIL AND BAD. AND IF MATTER WAS EVIL, GOD COULD NOT BECOME FLESH AND THEREFORE GNOSTICISM REFUTES THE INCARNATION OF JESUS. SALVATION ONLY BEING POSSIBLE TO SOME THROUGH SECRET KNOWLEDGE. MATTER IS EVIL, THE SOUL IS GOOD.

IMPLICATIONS = IF SOME SORT OF KNOWLEDGE IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR SALVATION, AND MATTER (MY BODY IS EVIL) THEN MY MORAL, ETHICAL AND BEHAVIORAL VICES ARE NOT CONDEMNED AND I CAN CONTINUE IN THEM.

ARIANISM – SUGGESTS THAT JESUS WAS MERELY A CREATED BEING, NOT FULLY DIVINE AND THEREFORE NOT FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN. DOUBTED THE TRINITARIAN VIEW OF GOD (FATHER, SON, HOLY SPIRIT)

IMPLICATION = IF JESUS WAS CREATED, HE CANNOT SAVE HUMANITY. IF JESUS WAS CREATED, AND CANNOT SAVE, OUR SALVATION THEN NEEDS TO REST ON MORAL EFFORTS, AND NOT HIS DECISIVE SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE, AS PERFECT GOD IN HUMAN FLESH.



MODALISM – SUGGESTS THAT THE TRINITY, ARE SIMPLY THREE EXPRESSIONS/APPEARANCES OF ONE PERSON, AND NOT DISTINCT PERSONS SHARING A DIVINE ESSENCE.

IMPLICATION = IT CONTRADICTS THE TRUTH THAT THE FATHER, SENT THE SON, THAT THROUGH THE SONS OBEDIENCE, WE ARE RECONCILED BACK TO GOD, THROUGH JESUS' OBEDIENCE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BEING CREDITED TO US.



DOCETISM – JESUS ONLY APPEARED TO HAVE A HUMAN BODY, AND THEREFORE DIDN'T ACTUALLY, TRULY SUFFER AND DIE.

IMPLICATION = IF JESUS' ONLY APPEARED TO SUFFER AND DIE, IT MEANS THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS ON THE CROSS WAS INEFFECTIVE. THEN TOO, HUMAN SUFFERING HAS NO VALUE AND MEANING, WHICH THEN WOULD DOWNPLAY THE EFFECTS OF SIN, AND THEREFORE THE NEED FOR A SAVIOUR.



1

Be able to Identify false teachers

Any teaching, practical or doctrinal that ushers in a denial of the person, work and authority of Jesus as Lord, and the downplays the authority of scripture, is heresy. (“Did God really say”)

Today: Its evident everywhere, in church
breakaways from orthodoxy, in the pursuit of
a potentially new, more relevantly
deconstructed way of Truth. Which denies the
Lordship of Jesus, the authority of scripture,
and promotes a pseudo-Christian way of life,
that is morally and ethically compromised,
because they've rejected Jesus as Master, as
Lord.

2

Understand their influence and Motive

Sensuality is pursued and promoted
when the law and the prophets, the
apostolic witness Peter spoke of, the
Lordship of Jesus, is denounced and
compromised.

The enticement of the sensual nature of heretical teaching, rightfully brings into disrepute the way of truth. Because if the “way of truth” is morally and ethically flawed, and anything goes, the credibility of the high call to devotion to God falls away. And then “church” being promoted by heretical teaching begins to look, feel, and act like the world. That’s the dangerous pluralistic, tolerance filled, influence heretical teaching has on the way of truth.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Destruction = Mentioned 3 times

Be aware of rejection vs. Heresy

Remain faithful to truth

Think, don't just feel

Pursue Biblical literacy

