

A low-angle photograph of several tall, fluted ancient Greek columns, likely from the Temple of Concordia in Agrigento, Italy. The columns are weathered and show signs of age. The sky is a pale, overcast blue. The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent banner at the top and bottom, containing white text.

Facts About False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1-3

An Exposition through 2 Peter: Established in the Truth

2 Peter 1 concerns God's saving grace in Christ and His **provision of His truth to **establish** us in **Christlikeness**. This process is what all false teaching **undermines**.**

In chapter 2, Peter unleashes a devastating truth-barrage against false teachers and their deceptive lies. In 2 Peter 2:1-3, he begins with **three foundational facts about who these false teachers are and how they operate in their fight against God and His truth.**

THREE FOUNDATIONAL FACTS ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

I. False Teachers Are Among Us (2 Peter 2:1)

*“But false prophets also arose **among the people**, just as there will also be false teachers **among you**...”*

*“False prophets” (pseudoprophētai) heralded **lies** that plagued Old Testament believers*

*“False teachers” (pseudodidaskaloi) teach what is **contrary** to **sound** doctrine.*

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- 2 Corinthians 12:14-15; 13:7-9
- Acts 20:17-21, 28-32

THREE FOUNDATIONAL FACTS ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

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Paul's description parallels Peter's:

- False teachers are savage wolves who **will ravage you**.
- They will come from **within** the body.
- They will **speak perverse** things.
- They will **draw you away** from Jesus and His truth to **follow them**.
They will accomplish this through perverse teaching.

Perverse (*diastrepho*) has the idea of turning different ways, twisting about, distorting. False teaching distorts and twists the truth. False teachers make their teaching appealing to lure you away.

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Solemn servanthood:

*“...among which the **Holy Spirit has made** you overseers, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”*

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“...who will *secretly* introduce *destructive heresies*...”

Peter describes the *nature* of their teaching as *destructive heresies*.
Secretly introduce literally means *to bring in alongside*.

They infiltrate by coming in alongside us and by putting their teaching *alongside the truth* to eventually undermine and *replace* it.

I. False Teachers Are Among Us (2 Peter 2:1)

Heresies: “...an opinion, especially a self-willed opinion, which is **substituted** for submission to the power of truth, and leads to **division** and the formation of sects.”¹

Destruction: the result of heeding heresies. It has the idea of “the termination of something by causing so much damage to it that it cannot be repaired or no longer exists.”²

THREE FOUNDATIONAL FACTS ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

I. False Teachers Are Among Us (2 Peter 2:1)

This refers to eternal destruction/damnation of the false teachers and all who follow their lies. It is Satan's **damning** power through false teaching to *steal, kill, and destroy* (John 10:10).

In contrast, God's "*divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness.*"

The process of your sanctification is about you growing in *the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ* and all to the greater glory of God.

THREE FOUNDATIONAL FACTS ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

I. False Teachers Are Among Us (2 Peter 2:1)

“In every church there are members who appear to be believers and who should be accepted as believers according to the judgment of charity. As time elapses and difficulties arise, it becomes apparent that they are wolves in the flock (Acts 20:29-30), that though they called on Jesus as Lord their disobedience shows that He never knew them (Matt. 7:21-23), that they are like the seed sown on rocky or thorny ground that initially bears fruit but dries up and dies when hard times come (Matt. 13:20-22).” (Tom Schreiner)

THREE FOUNDATIONAL FACTS ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

I. False Teachers Are Among Us (2 Peter 2:1)

The false teachers **misrepresent** and **malign** Jesus. Knowing and growing in Christlikeness and glorifying God are what false teaching **hinders** and **frustrates**. False teaching causes **you** to miss Jesus. False doctrine opens your life to Satanic error.

What is the effect of this seductive deception on people?

II. Many People Follow Them (2 Peter 2:2)

Bottom line:

Their teaching supports an anti-authority, do-your-own-thing way of living -- chase your desires.

III. Many People Are Exploited (2 Peter 2:3)

Who bears the full weight of responsibility for protecting our church family from these predators and their destructive heresies?

The pastors...

III. Many People Are Exploited (2 Peter 2:3)

Who bears the full weight of responsibility for protecting our church family from these predators and their destructive heresies?

The pastors **and** the men of our church.

The **pastors equip** and **encourage** the men of our church to be **brothers-in-arms**, to act as **fellow guardians** against this ever-present, ever-real threat to our unity and mission as Grace Church Williamsburg.

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