

2 Peter 2:10b-16 Discussion Questions

1. The first thing that Peter points out in this passage is that the false teachers that he is dealing with are boldly blaspheming “glorious ones.” Basically, this means they are speaking as if they had the right and authority, in and of themselves, to declare judgments against spiritual beings. Angels don’t even do; this is God’s right alone. And so, one characteristic of false teaching is to speak and act with an authority that belongs to God alone.

- a. How can we do this very same thing? How are we tempted to exalt ourselves to positions of authority that belong to God alone?
- b. How are we tempted to diminish God’s position and bring Him down to our level?
- c. We all struggle with this kind of pride in various ways. What have you learned about how to identify this sin in your own life and to humble yourself before God and recognize His unique glory and position?

2. The other characteristic Peter points out here is their willful wickedness, specifically shamelessness, lust, and greed.

- a. While these kinds of sins usually have outward manifestations, they are not always easy to spot right away. What does this teach us about what we should be looking for when evaluating a Bible teacher? How can we identify these kinds of things?

3. Putting this altogether, Peter provides us with two key questions when evaluating a teacher. First, do they honor and revere the Lord? Second, how do they treat God’s people? One of the best ways to make sure we catch failures in this area is to make sure that we ourselves are honoring God and loving His people. That way we can more easily when a teacher is not.

- a. How have you been growing in these two areas lately? What has God been teaching you about how to honor Him rightly? What has He been teaching you about how to love His people well?

4. In this passage, Peter provides some behavioral criteria for identifying false teachers. There are many other books and passages in Scripture where we are

provided with doctrinal criteria (e.g. Galatians, 1 John). In short, anything that contradicts, directly or indirectly, the fundamental doctrines of Scripture is false teaching. But how do we know what the "fundamental doctrines" are?

5. How do we learn to be vigilant and careful when sitting under teaching without being overly critical? What is the balance there?