

2 Peter 2:17-22 Discussion Questions

1. In this passage Peter continues to develop his portrait of false teachers. He begins with some powerful metaphors pointing to the fact that these teachers aren't what they seem and can't deliver on what they promise.

a. We can all probably think of examples of people who misrepresent themselves and times that we may have been deceived by them. What are some ways that we can guard against this kind of thing happening in our churches today?

b. Truth be told, it's easy for any of us to begin pretending we are something we are not, and making promises that we can't keep. Sometimes we even fool ourselves. How can we make sure that we don't fall into that very same trap?

2. Peter goes on to point out that the false teachers promise others freedom while they live in slavery. This is a profound observation. It seems that these false teachers were giving people permission to indulge their desires (i.e. "freedom"), but Peter is pointing out that this actually leads to the same bondage that the teachers live in (i.e. slaves to their desires).

a. How does the false prophets' version of freedom differ from the Bible's definition of freedom? (See John 8:31-34 for what biblical freedom is.)

b. Do we tend to think of freedom the way the false prophets do or the way God does?

c. What does it take for us to want God's freedom (i.e. freedom from sin) instead of the world's version of freedom (i.e. license to do whatever you want)? How has God grown you in this area?

3. Peter then goes on to explain how these false teachers are enslaved. He does this by pointing out that their actions reveal their true nature. Dogs do what dogs do. Pigs do what pigs do. And, likewise, the false teachers live like false teachers (e.g. slaves to sin) no matter what they say. This highlights the essential nature of transformation. It's not about acting like something we are not. Instead, it is about becoming who God created us to be.

a. How do we become instead of just pretending? Where have you seen the most transformation in your own life? How did it happen?

b. How do you know the difference in your own life between trying to be someone who you are not and living according to the new nature God has given you by the power of the Spirit?

Suggested Prayer Prompts

- **Pray that God would guard our church, and the Church in general, from false teachers.**
- **Pray that God would guard us from the false teaching in our own hearts.**
- **Pray that we would embrace and long for the freedom that God offers over the false freedom of the world.**
- **Pray that we would not settle for pretending, but pursue and find true transformation through Jesus.**
- **Pray for one another in specific areas where transformation is needed.**
- **Pray for the Women's Retreat**
- **Pray for one another's needs**