

# Counterfeit Christianity



**Text: Matthew 7:15-29, 2 Peter 2:1-3**

## I. Introduction

- U.S. Treasury making new money with many features to fight counterfeits
- It's possible to know all the right answers to questions, to attend church, etc., but yet be a counterfeit Christian

## II. Jesus Was Particularly Sensitive To The Problem Of Counterfeit Christianity

- Jesus was particularly sensitive to the problem of counterfeit clergy
- He had great respect for their offices but not for their inner character
- Many people have the same problem
- We will encounter counterfeit Christians, teachers, ministers, evangelists
- Jesus said "Watch out for false prophets! They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

## III. How Can I Know If My Faith Is Real

- Jesus compares a fruit-bearing tree to a Christian
- **2 John 1:6**
- **1 John 2:3-6**
- Live like Jesus
- If you were arrested for being a Christian...would there be enough evidence to convict you?
- What kind of fruit do you bear?
- **Galatians 5:22-23** or **Galatians 5:19-21**
- True love for Jesus through the heart will always prove your motive
- False prophets never hesitate to divide the body of Christ

## IV. How Can I Know If The Corporate Faith Of A Congregation Is Real

- Does a church share the Bible with all including the lost, or just with the "in" crowd?
- Is a church bound within the walls of the building or do they work outside those boundaries?

- What is the church's missions they support?
- Right doctrine and right living always go hand in hand
- **1 John 4:1-8, 20-21**
- **1 John 5:1-5**
- Do you follow Jesus up to a point?
- Unless you follow him with all your heart and live your life after Him, you are not a Christian
- We're called to bear fruit and we're called to take up our crosses
- If you are bearing no fruit, and if you are refusing to take up a cross...then friend, one thing is certain...you are not a Christian

## **V. Conclusion**

- "By their fruit you will recognize them"
- God asks us to follow His son
- Will you follow Him?