

LESSON 11
TRUE OR FALSE?
2 CORINTHIANS 11:1–33



1 It is often said that imitation is the highest form of flattery. How is this true?

2 When is imitation undesirable or even dangerous?



Read 2 Corinthians 11:1–33, the chart, “Paul’s Credentials,” and the following notes:

☐ 11:1 ☐ 11:3 ☐ 11:3, 4 ☐ 11:4 ☐ 11:6 ☐ 11:7 ☐ 11:14, 15 ☐ 11:22, 23 ☐ 11:23–29

3 Compare Paul with the false apostles (11:1–33):

Paul	False Apostles
Motive _____	_____
Message _____	_____
Style of Delivery _____	_____
Way of Life _____	_____

4 How do these comparisons show that Paul was the true teacher and the others were not?

5 Why were the Corinthians tempted to believe the false teachers (11:1, 3, 4, 18–20)?

6 How can we tell false teachers from true ones (11:4)?

Paul was concerned about the Corinthians. He wanted the Corinthians to discern wisely so they would not be led astray. They were listening to the lies of the false apostles, and some Corinthian Christians were being led astray from the truth about Christ. Nothing is more important than staying true to the Lord who saved us! It does not pay to be naive. False teachers will often try to lead us away from Christ. That is why we must stay in touch with the Word of God.



7 What are the marks of false teachers? What do they do and say?

8 When is it difficult to identify false teachers?

9 What makes false teachers so attractive?

10 What makes them so dangerous?



11 How can we tell the difference between true and false spiritual teachers today?

12 Who are some obvious false teachers in our society?

13 Where might we expect to find false teachers?

14 What are some examples of a “different Jesus” that are being preached today?

15 How can we avoid labeling people as false teachers without good reason?

16 What is the most important step you can take right now to discern true teaching from false teaching?



A Why was Paul jealous (11:1–3)? For whom do you have a similar concern? How can you share your concern?

B What “shortcoming” of Paul’s drew criticism (11:6)? For what shortcomings do people criticize church leaders today? What is a better response than criticism?

C What did Paul do in order to avoid being a burden to the Corinthians (11:7–9)? What can you do to avoid being a burden to those you serve?

D Why did Paul defend himself (11:10–12)? What was at stake? What is worth defending to you?

E What did Paul do that he called foolish (11:16–29)? When might you be driven to “foolishness” in order to defend the gospel?

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