

# "COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY"

Series: "Insight for the Journey," part 14 of 16  
Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 5:00 pm and  
Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 9:00 and 11:00 am

**Big Idea:** Knowing the real thing will help you spot the counterfeits more easily.

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

**Bullet:** What makes the counterfeit so dangerous is that it looks like the real thing.

## THE SCRIPTURE:

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for **Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light**. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

**THE MAIN POINT:** *When it comes to Jesus, keep the main thing \_\_\_\_\_!*

{See Revelation 2:2-4; Galatians 1:8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7}

## THREE CRITICAL STARTING POINTS:

◆Counterfeits and deceptions look \_\_\_\_\_.

{See 1 John 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:9b-10a; Deuteronomy 18:21-22; John 8:44}

◆Satan's goal is not to make us bad-- it's to \_\_\_\_\_.

◆No one gets into heaven by \_\_\_\_\_!

{See Isaiah 64:6a; Colossians 2:13-14; Galatians 2:21; Galatians 3:10-11; John 3:16}

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE COUNTERFEITS:

What is a cult? It's a group that \_\_\_\_\_ but is not.

What do I mean by off-base teachers? Those who are still within the realm of orthodox Christianity but they are \_\_\_\_\_.

**1. They tend to make Christianity \_\_\_\_\_.**

{See also I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 22:34-40; 1 John 2:1-6}

**2. Their message is always \_\_\_\_\_.**

2 Corinthians 11:4

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

**3. They major on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

Colossians 2:20-23

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods.

{See also Galatians 3:10-11}

**4. Their leadership tends to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

2 Corinthians 11:20-21

In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face. To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

Acts 17:11

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.