

Religion and Tradition - Counterfeit Christianity

count·er·feit (koun t^r-f^īt)

v. **count·er·feit·ed, count·er·feit·ing, count·er·feits**

v. *tr.*

1. To make a copy of, usually with the intent to defraud; forge: *counterfeits money.*
2. To make a pretense of; feign: *counterfeited interest in the story.*

v. *intr.*

1. To carry on a deception; dissemble.
2. To make fraudulent copies of something valuable.

adj.

1. Made in imitation of what is genuine with the intent to defraud: *a counterfeit dollar bill.*
2. Simulated; feigned: *a counterfeit illness.*

n.

A fraudulent imitation or facsimile.

The Bible warns us of false prophets, false doctrine, and false worship. Another word for false is counterfeit. In lieu of religion and tradition that we have seen can make the word of God of none effect, how do you prepare yourself against counterfeit worship?

Colossians 2:8-10 (KJV)

- 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
- 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
- 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Matt 15:7-8(KJV)

- 7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
- 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Matt 23:14-15(KJV)

- 14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
- 15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

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For example, one means of demonstrating how to identify counterfeit is with the way to identify counterfeit currency. The important point from this analogy is the fact that the best way to spot counterfeit currency is to know the real thing.

Know Your Money

Every year the public is victimized by the counterfeiting of United States currency and other U.S. obligations.

How To Detect Counterfeit Money

The public has a role in maintaining the integrity of our currency. You can help guard against the threat from counterfeiters by becoming more familiar with United States currency.

Look at the money you receive. Compare a suspect note with a genuine note of the same denomination and series, paying attention to the quality of printing and paper characteristics. Look for differences, not similarities.

Portrait

The genuine portrait appears lifelike and stands out distinctly from the background. The counterfeit portrait is usually lifeless and flat. Details merge into the background which is often too dark or mottled.



Federal Reserve and Treasury Seals

On a genuine bill, the saw-tooth points of the Federal Reserve and Treasury seals are clear, distinct, and sharp. The counterfeit seals may have uneven, blunt, or broken saw-tooth points.



Border

The fine lines in the border of a genuine bill are clear and unbroken. On the counterfeit, the lines in the outer margin and scrollwork may be blurred and indistinct.



Serial Numbers

Genuine serial numbers have a distinctive style and are evenly spaced. The serial numbers are printed in the same ink color as the Treasury Seal. On a counterfeit, the serial numbers may differ in color or shade of ink from the Treasury seal. The numbers may not be uniformly spaced or aligned.



Paper

Genuine currency paper has tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Often counterfeiters try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. Close inspection reveals, however, that on the counterfeit note the lines are printed on the surface, not embedded in the paper. It is illegal to reproduce the distinctive paper used in the manufacturing of United States currency.



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So, the best way to identify counterfeit money is to study real money... therefore this gives you the clear distinction between what is real and what is false. The same is true for Christianity.

Know Your Bible

Every year Christianity is victimized by the counterfeiting of proper worship.

How To Detect Counterfeit Christianity

Many church going people get caught up in the pomp and ceremony of their particular denomination. The main emphasis in these assemblies is the entertainment value of the presentation vs. the proper dosage of the Word of God. The real means of seeing through the tradition is to know your Bible.

Psalms 119:104-105 (KJV)

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Read your bible. Become familiar with the books and timeframe they were written. Practice the important principal of right division so you may discern how to interpret scripture according to scripture. The Bible itself tells us how to study by declaring certain rules for reading it and using scripture for determining whether worship is either counterfeit or real.

The Bible is Inspired by God

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (II Timothy 3:16) – This means we have God's very thoughts as told to men who wrote it down and passed it on to generations. We base our worship on God's words vs. mans opinions.

We Lack Nothing for Proper Worship

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God *that the man of God may be perfect (fitted), thoroughly furnished unto all good works* (II Timothy 3:16) – We lack nothing for determining our proper walk and worship.

We Must Work At Studying the Bible

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing* the Word of truth (II Timothy 2:15) – It takes effort and commitment to read, memorize, and hide God's word in our hearts. There is no easy way around this one... you can't have someone else do it for you. Nor can you rely on someone else telling you what it says. You have to put in the time to avoid embarrassment in front of God.

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There Are No Personal Interpretations

No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation (II Peter 1:20) – No individual can read scripture and claim they are the only ones who know what it means. The interpretation of any scripture must be derived from its context and compared with other passages discussing the same subject.

The Word of God is Complete

The dispensation of God which is given to me (Paul) for you to fulfil (complete, fill to the full so no more can be added) the Word of God; even the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but is now manifest to His saints. (Colossians 1:25,26) – The Apostle Paul was given a body of truth he calls The Mystery, which was the last doctrine given by God to man. This final revelation of truth was said to complete the word of God therefore no other commentary (in any form) can add to scripture.

All Authority is Under God, God's Word is the Final Authority

I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me; and I say to this man, 'Go', and he goeth, and to another 'Come', and he cometh; and to my servant, 'Do this', and he doeth it...". When Jesus heard this he marvelled and said to them that followed, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (Matthew 8:8-10) – All authority is under authority, therefore God is the final authority and the Word of God is the final authority on matters. This eliminates any other governing body or tradition that would take a position contrary to scripture.

Faith Comes from Scripture not Experiences

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17) – Faith comes by reading, studying, memorizing, and applying God's word in your life. No other form of "spiritual exercise" is said to build *proper* faith. This would eliminate experience as a means of building faith... since experiential faith comes and goes, the word of God is constant.

Compare Scripture with Scripture

That you may approve the things that are (more) excellent (Philippians 1:10) comparing spiritual things with spiritual (I Cor. 2:13). – The only proper way to interpret doctrine in scripture is to compare scripture with scripture. The word of God is the best and only source to comment on itself.

By studying your Bible, you will have built up an understanding of what is truth and the proper way for worshipping God. This is how you will be able to identify false worship that usually exists in religion or tradition.