DISCERNMENT

The Different Types Of False Teachers

Type	Scripture	
Types Of False Teachers		
Anti-Christ(s)	The spirit of anti-Christ is also comprised of many false teachers, who were already in the world in John's time and who are among us right now.	
	For many will come in my name, saying: 'I am the CHRISTOS'. And they will lead many astray.	Mat 24:5
	For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disquising themselves as apostles of CHRISTOS. And no wonder, for Satan himself disguises himself as an angel of light.	2Cor 11:13-14
	... many anti-Christs have arisen, by which we know that it is the last hour.	1Joh 2:18
	... and every spirit that does not confess IESOUS is not from THEOS, and this is the spirit of the anti-Christ, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.	1Joh 4:3
	For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess IESOUS CHRISTOS coming in the flesh. This person is a deceiver and an anti-Christ!	2Joh 1:7
Abusers	He uses his status and leadership position to spiritually abuse and exploit other people. Biblical examples include next to the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law also e.g. Samuel's sons who abused their positions for personal wealth. Many teachers of today's church are guilty of similar charges.	
	And it came to pass when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. And these are the names of his sons; Joel the first-born, and the name of the second Abia, judges in Bersabee. And his sons did not walk in his way; and they turned aside after gain, and took gifts, and perverted judgments.	1Sam 8:1-3
	And David sent messengers, and took her, and went in to her, and he lay with her: and she was purified from her uncleanness, and returned to her house. And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, I am with child. And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Urias the Chettite; and Joab sent Urias to David. [...] And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and some of the people of the servants of David fell, and Urias the Chettite died also.	2Sam 11:4-17
	... for there did come in unobserved certain men, long ago having been written beforehand to this judgment, impious, the grace of our THEOS perverting to lasciviousness, and our only MASTER, THEOS, and KYRIOS - IESOUS CHRISTOS - denying ...	Jud 1:4
Charlatans (e.g. Prosperity Teachers and so-called 'Apostles')	Teachers who personally enrich themselves by misusing Christianity- usually combined with the promise to bring others into 'Prosperity'. See also the Special Discernment on Pentecostalism and the Prosperity G-spel which mainly originated within Pentecostalism.	
	... men wholly corrupted in mind, and destitute of the truth, supposing the piety to be gain; depart from such.	1Tim 6:3-5
	For such people do not serve KYRIOS our CHRISTOS, but their own stomach, and by smooth speech and flattery they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.	Rom 16:18
	And in greediness they will exploit you with false words, whose condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.	2Pet 2:3
Dividers	Teachers who disrupt or ultimately destroy a church through erroneous teachings. They generate rather unhealthy division than healthy unity (although division can sometimes be healthy but only if it rightly divides the truth).	
	For he rejoices in all things which THEOS hates, and he is ruined by reason of impurity of soul. The eye of the haughty, a tongue unjust, hands shedding the blood of the just; and a heart devising evil thoughts, and feet hastening to do evil, are hateful to THEOS. An unjust witness kindles falsehoods, and brings on quarrels between brethren.	Pro 6:16-19
	And I call on you, brothers, to mark those who are causing the divisions and the stumbling-blocks, contrary to the teaching that you learned, and turn away from them ...	Rom 16:17
	... each one of you says: "I, indeed, am of Paul" - "and I of Apollos" - [replace it with Augustine or the Pope] "and I of Cephas" - [replace it with Calvin or Luther] "and I of CHRISTOS". Has CHRISTOS been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul?"	1Cor 1:12-13
	... in the last time there shall be scoffers, after their own desires of impieties going on, these are those setting themselves apart, natural men, the SPIRIT not having.	Jud 1:18-19
Heretics	Someone who alters essentials of the Christian faith, such as the Trinity, the full divinity and humanity of IESOUS CHRISTOS, or the nature of salvation.	
	Remind [them] of these things, testifying fully before KYRIOS - not to strive about words to nothing profitable, but to the subversion of those hearing; be diligent to present yourself approved to THEOS - a workman not ashamed, straightly cutting the word of truth; and stand aloof from the profane vain talkings, for they will advance to more impiety, and their word will have pasture as a gangrene, of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus, who swerved concerning the truth, saying the resurrection to have already been, and overthrows the faith of some; sure, nevertheless, the foundation of THEOS has stood, having this seal: "KYRIOS has known those who are His," and, "Let him depart from unrighteousness - everyone who is naming the Name of CHRISTOS."	2Tim 2:17-18
	... there will be false teachers among you also, who will bring in destructive heresies, even denying the MASTER who bought them, thus bringing on themselves swift destruction. ... in greediness they will exploit you with false words ...	2Pet 2:1-3
	... our beloved brother Paul - according to the wisdom given to him - did write to you, as also in all the epistles, speaking in them concerning these things, among which things are certain hard to be understood, which the untaught and unstable do wrest, as also the other writings, unto their own destruction.	2Pet 3:15-16
	But I have a few things against you: that you have there those holding the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling-block before the sons of Israel, to eat idol-sacrifices, and to commit whoredom; so have you, even you, those holding the teaching of the Nicolaitans - which thing I hate. Convert! And if not, I come to you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.	Rev 2:14-16
Man-Pleasers	Teachers who are rather pleasing man than THEOS. He does not necessarily care for what THEOS wants, but rather what men want to hear and what fills a church.	
	For there will be a time when they will not put up with sound teaching, but in accordance with their own desires, they will accumulate for themselves teachers, because they have an insatiable curiosity, and they will turn away from the hearing of the truth, but will turn to myths.	2Tim 4:3-4
	For we are not like the majority who peddle the word of THEOS, but as from pure motives - but as from THEOS - we speak before THEOS in CHRISTOS.	2Cor 2:17
Pseudo-Prophets	Teachers who are not guided by THEOS (thus by satan) and who mislead the church of CHRISTOS. This includes people trained at prophetic schools who believe such training entails a supposed divine calling, as well as those who appear out of nowhere claiming to be divinely chosen prophets, usually accompanied by a seemingly spectacular story of supernatural encounters. While they may sometimes prophesy correctly (as chance or other methods allow them), their true fruits are evident in the many misleading and failed prophecies, often presented as a normal byproduct of true prophecy. Pseudo-prophets rarely challenge people in the way the true prophets of the Old Testament did; instead, they rather elaborate pleasing prophecies, or challenging prophecies which do not directly affect those hearing them, but leaves them in awe and wonder.	
	So KYRIOS cut off from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day - the elder and honored man is the head, and the prophet who teaches lies is the tail; for those who guide this people have been leading them astray, and those who are guided by them are swallowed up.	Isa 9:14-16
	Then I said, "Ah, KYRIOS, look, the prophets are saying to them, 'You will not see the sword, and famine will not be yours, but reliable peace I will give to you in this place.' " And KYRIOS said to me, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them, and I have not commanded them, and I have not spoken to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, and a divination, worthless, and the deceitfulness of their minds." Therefore thus says KYRIOS concerning the prophets who prophecy in my name though I have not sent them, yet they are saying, "Sword and famine will not be in this land." "By the sword and by the famine those prophets will perish.	Jer 14:13-15
	Look, I am against the prophets," declares KYRIOS, "who take their tongues and declare as prophets [...] I am against those who prophesy dreams of lies," [...] they caused my people to err through their lies, and in their recklessness, when I myself have not sent them nor commanded them, so they profit not this people at all" ...	Jer 23:31-32
	Thus says KYRIOS: Woe to them that prophesy out of their own heart, and who see nothing at all. Your prophets, O Israel, are like foxes in the deserts. They have not continued steadfast, and they have gathered flocks against the house of Israel, they that say: In the day of KYRIOS, have not stood, seeing false visions, prophesying vanities, who say, KYRIOS says, and KYRIOS has not sent them, and they began to try to confirm the word. Have you not seen a false vision? And spoken vain prophecies? And therefore say, Thus saith KYRIOS; Because your words are false, and your prophecies are vain, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith KYRIOS. And I will stretch forth my hand against the prophets that see false visions, and those that utter vanities [...] Because they have caused my people to err, saying, Peace; and there is no peace ...	Eze 13:3-10
	'KYRIOS, KYRIOS, did we not prophesy in your name? And in your name we have cast out demons, and in your name we did many deeds of power?" But then I will avow to them that I never knew you. Depart from me, those committing lawlessness!	Mat 7:21-23
	"Beware of pseudo-prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, yet inside they are rapacious wolves! By their fruits you will recognize them.	Mat 7:15-16
	"'Teacher, we desire to see a sign from you." [...] "An evil and adulterous generation is seeking a sign. But a sign will not be given to it, except the sign of Jonah the prophet.	Mat 12:38-39
	... brethren, earnestly desire to prophesy, and to speak with tongues do not forbid; let all things be done decently and in order.	1Cor 14:39-40
	I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, THEOS will add to him the plagues written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, THEOS will take away his share of the tree of life and from the holy city that are written in this book.	Rev 22:18-19
Showman Preachers	Showman preaching prioritizes performance, entertainment value, and personal charisma over deep biblical exposition or spiritual substance. But its damage is greatest when showman preaching is actually combined with biblical exposition or spiritual substance, because the lines are blurred and destructive heresies can come in rather underhindered while the congregation is focussed on the person of the preacher and simply nods at the highlights of the sermon and specific interpretations, but neglects to see the bigger picture of spiritual truth. The result is rather a superficial faith where emotional high points delivered by a 'oh-so talented' preacher (rather) replace genuine spiritual transformation. In stark contrast to the popularized concept of 'Talent + Seminary Training = Great Preacher', the biblical standards for a teacher of the Word are vastly different. **Theatrical Delivery**: Preachers use dramatic voice inflections (Charles Spurgeon being a good example therefore, being a 'great' actor and considered by the broad road of the church as the 'prince of preachers', a title who only belongs to One), pacing, facial expressions, and physical gestures to manipulate audience emotions rather than teaching Scripture. In recent decades, modern entertainment elements like concert-level lighting are often added, and sometimes even fog machines and high-energy music are (ab-) used to draw crowds and create a spectacle. **Style Over Substance**: Messages often rely on catchy one-liners, motivational self-help concepts, or cherry-picked verses. **Focus on the Speaker**: The minister functions more like a ringleader or celebrity (Charles Spurgeon is the perfect example for both), drawing attention to their own talent, platform, or perceived 'anointing' rather than serving as a truly humble, and not pretentiously humble spiritual guide. Religious gatherings often turn into brand-building exercises centered on institutional -and thus personal- financial gain.	
	Certain, indeed, even through envy and contention, and certain also through goodwill, preach CHRISTOS; one, indeed, of rivalry proclaims CHRISTOS, not purely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds, and the other out of love ...	Php 1:15-17
	... and in covetousness, with forged words, they will make merchandise of you, whose judgment of old is not idle, and their destruction does not slumber.	2Pet 2:3
	... for speaking swollen words of vanity, they entice in desires of the flesh - licentiousness, those who had truly escaped from those conducting themselves in error, promising liberty to them, themselves being servants of corruption ...	2Pet 2:18-19
Speculators	His teachings often include novelty and speculation. Biblical passages are interpreted through biases and assumptions, and biblical stories are embellished according to the preacher's own imagination. This might also imply the prevalent use of extra-biblical sources and repeated references to important teachers of modern history, or of so-called church fathers in more ancient history.	
	And 'Father' you should not call yourselves on earth, for one is your Heavenly Father. [this includes a vast variety of abuses we find in church today, starting with regular references to characters such as Augustine and Ignatius, and going to C.S. Lewis and Spurgeon, a practise widely accepted in church today, but regularly including highly problematic teachers and plainly opposing the prohibition in this verse to do so. We might not call a Spurgeon our father, but we clearly treat him as such and actively work out that future generations venerate such characters even more as their spiritual fathers]	Mat 23:9
	Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace ...	Heb 13:9
	... that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than the administration of THEOS which is in faith.	1Tim 1:3-4
	Turn away from pointless empty talk and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge ...	1Tim 6:20-21