

**Question:** How can we guard our faith and others against apostasy/ defection? [Galatians 6:9](#)

Sometimes your enemy can be the closest one to you if you are not careful. [Matthew 26:23](#)

God surveys the church for people with right hearts whom he can use greatly for the kingdom.  
[2 Chronicles 16:9](#)

**Question:** How can we guard ourselves from becoming agents of demons—falling away from God and leading others astray?

To avoid becoming agents of demons, we must, obviously, keep tender consciences instead of hardened ones [Acts 24:16](#), [1 Timothy 1:19](#)

### We Must Recognize False Teaching

What are some characteristics of false teaching, as discerned from [1 Timothy 4:3](#)?

“Remember” false teachers’ obligation is to lead others away from God [2 Corinthians 11:14-15](#)

### False teaching often focuses on small doctrinal areas.

Why does demonic doctrine often focus on minor areas? [1 Corinthians 5:6](#), [1 Peter 5:8](#)

Satan takes ground on one minor area of doctrine. Then he takes ground on another minor area, and sooner or later one’s whole faith is leavened with false doctrine. [Matthew 16:6](#), [2 Timothy 4:3](#)

This should be a strong warning to us because the reality is that none of us have perfect doctrine, and we won’t until heaven. Nevertheless, the areas where we are off are the very areas Satan will attack us and others—leading us further and further away from the truth,

### False teaching often has twisted truth.

When Satan lied to Eve about the tree, there was an element of truth to it. [Genesis 3:1-5](#),

The chief priests [Luke 23:2](#)

### A quick point about food and marriage [1 Timothy 4:4-5](#)

False teachers were attacking Ephesus. It called for people to abstain from marriage and specific foods. One can abstain from marriage and not eat meat, and it won’t make a person holy.

Man is prone to this temptation because it appeals to our prideful nature. [1 Corinthians 7:9](#),  
[Acts 10: 14-15](#), [Matthew 14:19](#)

**Question:** In what ways have you seen or experienced this in the church and what are some of the results of these errors creeping into the church?

### To Guard our faith, We Must Know the Truth [Ephesians 4:11-12-14](#)

Many Christians are like spiritual infants. Because they don’t know the Word of God very well, they are easily deceived. [1 Corinthians 3:1-2](#)

If We Are Going To Guard Our Faith, We Must Know the Truth. [2 timothy 2:15](#)