

## Defining a False Parent | False Parents, Part 1

### I. The Biblical Definition of False

- Both of those terms “False Prophet” and “False Teacher” are actually only one word in the Greek. And both of the words start with the same Greek prefix — *pseudo*.
- *Pseudo* is a Greek word that’s used of a lie, both intentional and unintentional falsehood, and — more broadly — whatever is not what it seems to be.

### II. The Biblical Definition of Prophets

- Whether the Old or New Testaments, the word “prophet,” refers to someone who claimed to *speak for God*.
- Prophecies could take multiple forms. In the case of genuine Old Testament prophets of God, sometimes God spoke directly to them and told them what to tell the people. Sometimes the prophets communicated things they saw in a dream. And — whether in a dream or from direct communication with God — the content of the prophecy may have included a historical recitation, a contemporary command or application, or even a foretelling of future events.
- And though most people in the world think of prophecy as that direct, special revelation from God to which the average individual doesn’t have access, the larger biblical idea of prophecy is much broader. In addition to communicating a future event as provided by God, prophecy also includes communicating the *already-recorded* words of God. Prophecy isn’t limited to supernatural, extra-biblical revelation. It can include it, but it’s not limited to that.
  - When you tell your children to obey because God commands that “*children obey [their] parents in the Lord for this is right,*” it could be said that you’re functioning as a prophet. You’re claiming to speak for God, and you are accurately speaking for Him.
  - Therefore, we’re going to limit this concept of False Prophets to people who claim to speak for God, but don’t. And we’re going to be able to — in most cases — easily identify whether or not they speak for God because God has already communicated everything we need to know at this moment.
  - We don’t have to think, “Oh, no! That person is claiming to speak for God, and he’s saying things that contradict the Scripture, is he really speaking for God or is he not? How am I supposed to know?” We will know because all we have to do is compare what was said to what God has already said.
- Therefore, False Teachers and Prophets to be people who claim to speak for God, but who actually don’t.

### III. The Definition of False Parents

- A False Parent is someone who claims to speak truth when — in actuality — he’s telling lies. We could also say that a False Parent is someone who leads his children in the wrong direction, or a False Parent is someone who — regardless of how noble her intentions — is parenting her children in the wrong way.
- You like realize that you’re not perfect, and you know that you’ve not only parented your children for your own fleshly desires, you know you’ve also misused God’s Word to persuade your kids to listen to you. In addition, you know there have been times where you’ve ignorantly misinterpreted the Bible but taught it to your kids as though it were true anyway.
- That means that every parent in the world has definitely — at some point in our parenting — been a False Parent.

#### IV. The Biblical Description of False Parents

- Deuteronomy 13:1-5; II Peter 2:1-22
- God's opinion of False Prophets isn't pretty. He describes them in the worst way and explains that their consequences will be dire.
  - God hates when people sin. But, there are so many additional condemnations for people who speak falsehood. Whether they claim to speak for God or not, He absolutely hates it. God is the truth, and those that worship Him must worship Him in truth.
  - That means that we parents have a huge responsibility on our shoulders. How many times on this show have we referenced Ephesians 6 and Deuteronomy 6? We know that God has commissioned us with the responsibility to teach our kids about God.
  - We know it's our responsibility to teach our kids what God says, reprove them when they disobey His commands, counsel them when they're ready to follow Christ, and train them to mature as His disciples.
- But if we lead our children in the wrong way, we are in serious trouble. If we claim to speak for God but misrepresent Him, there will be serious consequences.
- Consider the weight of James 3:1.
  - But though people may have a choice as to whether or not they engage in teaching, those with children don't have the choice of whether or not they'll be teachers. Parents are commanded by God to be teachers. Therefore, we need to recognize that — as teachers — we parents will incur a stricter judgment.
  - So why a stricter judgment? Why is God harder on teachers? It's simple. It's one thing to believe a lie, but to believe a lie and then convince other people to believe that same lie multiplies the sin.
  - In Matthew, Mark, and Luke we read Jesus' own words when He said, "*Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.*"
  - Therefore, it is absolutely vital that Christian parents know for certain, beyond all shadow of all doubt, that we are not leading their children the wrong way. We absolutely must know that we are not contradicting God. We absolutely must know that we are speaking God's Words for God's purposes.

#### V. The Motivation of False Parents

- Galatians 1:7; I Timothy 1:3-7; Matthew 7:21-23; I Corinthians 3:1-3; II Timothy 2:15-18
- We are sinners and that sin affects our kids.
- There are significant consequences for people who would deliberately twist God's Word.
- But people can genuinely want to worship God and still be a False Teacher.
- If a person can believe they are born again and yet never have had a relationship with Christ in the first place, how easy is it for us — sinful, finite humans — to lead people astray by claiming to speak for God, but speaking our own words instead?
- Deep into the Scriptures, deep into the character of God, deep into the will of our Lord is exactly where we must lead our children. We must be growing from the milk to the meat, and we must be leading our children to do the same.