



<b>DATE</b>	October 16, 2016
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	Judas or Peter
<b>SERIES</b>	Everyone wants to fit in. And there's nothing wrong with that, but there are ways God wants His followers to stand out from the world around them. The first-century church dealt with this same tension, so John wrote them a letter, 1 John, describing the difference between true followers of Jesus and counterfeit ones. So, what's true, and what's false?

1. Our world is filled with different belief systems and perspectives about salvation. Pastor David explained a number of religions and spiritual teachings that differ from what we know is the truth. Have you ever encountered spiritual teachings that differed from yours? Describe those experiences or conversations.
2. What false teachings do you see most widespread in our society? What about within parts of the Church itself?
3. One of the major points from today's lesson is that it's crucial that believers remain part of a community grounded in Christ's teachings. Do you agree that being part of a community of fellow believers is essential to being a true follower of Christ? If so, why do you believe it makes a difference? If not, why do you think it isn't important?
4. Do you know anyone who has fallen away from a community of believers, or left the faith in general? What reasons did they give? Did these all seem like selfish reasons, or did they seem rational? How do you speak to someone who has left the faith in order to draw them back without condemning or alienating them?
5. Have you ever "detoured" from the faith; what brought you back?
6. Pastor David concluded with the directive that's essential that true believers "stick it out" to remain faithful to Christ without being led astray. What does "sticking it out" look like in practical, everyday ways? Share verses from the Bible that give directions on this (you can start with 2 Corinthians 4:18, Joshua 24:14, Deuteronomy 10:12-13).
7. The Bible warns us repeatedly of being wary of false teachers (see Matthew 24:4-5, Acts 20:28-31, 2 Timothy 4:3-5). How do you "stick it out" if you're genuinely doubting the validity of the doctrine being taught in your community? How do you know when to stick it out vs. when you're following false teachings? Which verses in the Bible do you use to determine what is true and what is false?
8. Pastor David gave multiple reasons why people choose to leave the Church, including arrogance, seduction, and disillusionment. Do you believe that there are things that the Church or believers unknowingly do that compel people to bail? Does the Christian community have any responsibility in keeping its members together? What actions can you take to help fellow Christians remain faithful when they're considering departing?
9. As Pastor David showed today, there are multiple, significant differences between religion and following Jesus. Are you truly following Christ by abandoning your own will and following Him every day, or are you following a "spiritual checklist" to maintain your status of spiritual security without ultimately "dying to self"? What is still holding you back from yielding to His will?

The life of a Christ-follower is not an easy, care-free one and instead depends on constant vigilance, discipline, and support within our community. Commit with your small group to hold each other accountable and share personal struggles to ensure you aren't being led astray by false teachings.