

## How should I respond to false doctrine?

It seems that everywhere we go, we encounter professing Christians espousing some doctrine that is different than what we have come to understand to be true.

1. What should be our first response to what we believe to be false doctrine?

Acts **17:11**

1 John **4:1**

2 Kings **22:13**

Romans **7:9-10**

1 Corinthians **2:12-13**

Romans **14:1-6**

Whether we like it or not, the first thing we should do is to evaluate the new doctrine in order to verify whether or not the doctrine is true or not true. Some long held beliefs that we hold to may actually be false beliefs. We need to evaluate whether the doctrine is actually false and heretical or one that could be possible but not essential and probably not likely.

2. What are some things that we need to be cautious about when dealing with false doctrine?

Ephesians **4:12-15**

James **5:20**

Galatians **6:1**

1 Peter **5:8-9**

The first thing we have to be careful about is that we not accept the false doctrine. Sometimes people will accept what others say in order to maintain the relationship that they have. We also need to pursue a path of being prepared in order to facilitate that person's reconciliation with the Lord and His doctrines. Since reconciliation should be the targeted goal, we need to be careful to NOT reject them too readily but care for them with the love that Christ has shown us while being careful to resist.

3. How should we prepare to deal with those teaching false doctrine?

2 Timothy **2:15**

1 Peter **3:15**

Isaiah **28:9-13**

Jude **1:3-4**

The first thing we need to do is to know the scriptures. We need to know what they actually say and what they do not actually say. What they imply and what they do not imply. We need to be knowledgeable of the precepts and principles of the scriptures. Regardless of the doctrine, we need to be prepared to deal with the doctrine and the individual holding to the false doctrine.

4. How should we deal with those teaching false doctrine?

Matthew **18:15-17**

2 Timothy **2:23-24**

2 Timothy **4:2-4**

2 Timothy **2:16-18**

Titus **3:10-11**

We need to confront the one holding to false doctrine and with a sense of humility, peace, and compassion confront him with the error of their doctrine. If they refuse to change their doctrine after being shown the scriptures, it may be necessary to avoid them and reject them and assist others obtain the knowledge they need in order to rebuke and refute the errant doctrine.