

TRUTH DEFECTORS

I John 2:18-27

There is a difference between a defector and a disciple.

I. THERE ARE FELLOWSHIP ISSUES (18-19)

A. DEFECTORS DESERT CHRISTIANS (19)

1. Their Decision: They went out from us
2. Their Description: They were not really one of us

B. CHRISTIANS DETECT OPPONENTS (18)

1. We sense the hour
 - a. As the time of Christ's return grows closer, falsehood and imposters increase
 - b. See I Tim. 4:1 along with II Tim. 3:13 and 4:1-3
2. We see the antagonism
 - These are those who are hostile to Christian interests

II. THERE ARE FAITHFULNESS ISSUES (20-25)

A. DEFECTORS DENY CHRIST (22-23a)

1. Their words are false (22a)
 - They consciously and intentionally utter untrue things
2. Their witness is faulty (22b-23a)
 - a. Denying Christ's nature (22b)
 - b. Denying Christ's deity (22c)
 - c. Denying Christ's mediation (23a)

B. CHRISTIANS DEPEND ON TRUTH (20-21, 23b-25)

1. Our Anointing (20-21)
 - a. The Holy Spirit enables us to learn things (20)
 - See I Cor. 2:11-12
 - b. The Holy Spirit enables us to discern things (21)
2. Our Announcement (23b)
 - Confessing Christ
3. Our Affirmation (24)
 - A determination to stay with the gospel we heard from the beginning
4. Our Assurance (25)
 - God's personal promise of eternal life

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III. THERE ARE FIERCENESS ISSUES (26-27)

A. DEFECTORS DECEIVE CHRISTIANS (26)

1. Consider Their Purpose
 - a. Trying to lead astray
 - b. See II Peter 2:1-3
2. Note Their Progression
 - a. Separating: Departing from Christians (19)
 - b. Distinguishing: Denying Christ (22-23)
 - c. Influencing: Deceiving Christians (26)

B. CHRISTIANS DEFY SURRENDER (27)

1. We have no lack
 - The sufficiency of the Spirit and the Scriptures
2. We follow no lies
 - a. God's Spirit and His Word are always true
 - b. See John 17:15-17
3. We are not leaving
 - a. "Stayputtedness"
 - b. Resting and remaining in Christ alone! - John 15

CONCLUSION:

Consider II Peter 2:20-22

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "a dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire."

1. Some will become entangled with and overcome by the world (20)
2. Some will turn away from God's holy commandments (21)
3. Some will give up salvation to play in the slop (22)

THESE ARE TRUTH DEFECTORS!

1. **Be Aware:** They're out there
2. **Be Assured:** They have nothing good to offer
3. **Be Abiding:** Rest in the truth of God's salvation, God's Spirit and God's Scriptures!