

# The Distinguishing Marks of Christ's Sheep



**John 10:4-5, 27**

- We started a Series “Getting to Know the Voice of God” (John 10:1-5, 27)
  - Purpose – to make us aware of the Holy Spirit involvement in our daily lives. To help us become sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit leading and direction for our lives.
  - Goal – to strengthen our relationship with the Holy Spirit so that our life and our witness will glorify Jesus Christ.
  - Spiritual Principles – Authority, Organization, Grace, Obedience, Faith, Agreement
  
  - Review:
  - How to Recognize a Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing - Matthew 7:15-23
  - In this passage of Scripture Jesus gives a strong warning to His disciples and every true believer of Jesus Christ to beware of false prophets.
  - He also gives us clear instructions on how to recognize or detect the false, fake or counterfeit that present themselves as spokesmen for God. (Matthew 7:15-23)
1. Jesus Christ is addressing the issue of deception by false prophets and false professors (false followers) whose claim doesn’t line up with Jesus Christ and His Word.
  2. Jesus Christ warns every believer as well as encourages us to examine, test, inspect, to look at the evidence and not just what they claim.
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- Notice in verse 15, “Jesus says, “Beware of false prophets...”
1. The word “beware” means watch out, take heed, be on guard, guard against, or keep yourself from.
  2. The word “beware” when given is meant to draw or signal the attention of the hearer of any present or future danger that lies ahead.
  3. Jesus reveals their true nature and their attempt to camouflage themselves in order to appear harmless and innocent. How do they present themselves? Jesus tells us (vs. 15).

- (vs. 15) – “who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”
  - A wolf in sheep’s clothing is symbolic for someone who outwardly looks harmless, but inwardly they are full of deceit, corruption, hate and evil intentions.
1. They appear outwardly as ministers and sheep of God.
  2. But inwardly they are “ravenous or ferocious” wolves who seek only to devour and destroy people lives.
  3. Jesus teaches us the best way to distinguish the false prophets from those who have been truly sent by God – is by their fruit. Jesus said, “You shall know them by their fruit.” (vs. 20)
  4. You cannot always distinguish a tree by the outward leaves, but you can always distinguish a tree by the fruit it bears. (vs. 20)

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### John 10:4-5, 27

- Being a follower of Jesus Christ has nothing to do with a particular group or denomination (Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Holiness, etc.) – the truth of the matter those were created by man and not by God.
1. What makes us different from any other religion or religious group is our relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ who is our True Shepherd and hearing God’s voice. (John 10:27)
- As true believers, we serve the True and Living God – we serve the King of kings and the Lord of lords and His name in Jesus Christ.
1. As true believers we have the greatest privilege of knowing, serving, worshipping, hearing, fellowshiping, and communing with the Almighty God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
  2. As true believers we have the privilege of hearing His voice.

3. As true believers we have a Savior in Jesus Christ, who knows us by name and call us His own.
  4. As true believers we willingly and obediently follow Him.
- A. The believer's effectiveness as a true disciple and witness for Jesus Christ will be determined by these three things – It's not just being saved. (John 10:27, John 14:16-17)
1. Hearing His voice (inner voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to our spirit man).
  2. Walking in obedient to Him.
  3. Follow His leading and guiding.
- B. In biblical times the shepherd did not drive the sheep like cattle – He led them. How did the shepherd lead them?
1. By the sound of His voice. The sheep will not follow by watching the shepherd. They will only follow by listening to the sound of the shepherd voice. They went where they heard the shepherd's voice.
  2. It's impossible for believers to follow the voice of the Holy Spirit unless we hear and recognize His voice.
  3. As believers we have to hear His voice before we can follow – that's what make us the sheep of His pastures.