"De-Christianizing" the Church
(Part 1 – Identifying False Converts)

Passage: Matthew 7:15–27

I.   The _____ of False Converts – *vs. 15–20*

    A. False converts live hypocritically – *vs. 15*

    B. False converts live according to the works of the _____ – *vs. 16–18; Galatians 6:16–26*

    C. Genuine believers bear the fruit of the Spirit – *Galatians 6:16–17, 22–26*

        i.   The Spirit's "fruit" is found in the character and heart of a person, not merely in their "works."

        ii. The Spirit does not merely conform us to good works. He brings _____ which leads to good works.

    D. False converts incur the judgements of God – *vs. 19*

II. The _____ of False Converts – *vs. 21–23*

    A. Verbal acknowledgement does not equal genuine _____ – *vs. 21a*

    B. Commitment to religious and/or good works does not equal genuine faith – *vs. 22*

    C. False converts have not dealt with their _____ – *vs. 23*

    D. The genuine believer knows God and _____ the will of God – *vs. 21b; 23a*

III. The _____ of a False Convert's Life – *vs. 24–27*

    A. False converts build their lives on earthly success, pride, selfishness, and sinful pleasures – *vs. 26–27*

        i.   The life built on such a foundation WILL _____.

        ii. The collapse will be total, destructive, and deadly.

    B. Genuine believers build their lives on the Word of God – *vs. 24–25*

        i.   The Word of God will never fail you.

        ii. Although the evil of the world may assault your faith, if you build your life upon God and his promises, your faith and identity in Christ will never fail.

Application to The Church
1. The church is responsible for inspecting the "fruit" of its leaders.

2. The church is responsible for holding each other _____.

3. The church is responsible for confronting the false claims of those who verbally assent to the Christian faith but bear fruitless works of the flesh.

Application to Evangelism
1. Christians must help unbelievers understand the difference between "fruit" and "works."

2. Christians must preach the gospel of Christ instead of _____ conformity.