

## Judges 17-18 • How to Start a False Religion

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1. (17:1-3) A false religion begins with false **teaching**, most often using the very terms and name of God as if such tricks of vocabulary can give them **legitimacy**. They will often hold up **moral** examples of behavior which, in reality, are not good **spiritual** examples, but have the air and feel of **respectability**.
2. (17:4-6) A false religion **duplicates** the structures, organization, and even many of the practices of **Christianity** for a single, bottom line purpose: To do what is **right** in their own eyes, to **satisfy** self—not God.
3. (17:7-13) False religion loves to incorporate people with an established **pedigree** or well-known for their **heritage** in the true church so that they can display the image of **legitimacy** and further claim the things and name of God for their own purposes, which are always motivated by **pride** and **greed**.
4. (18:1-2) False religion replaces God's **original** plan and instructions with a similar looking **counterfeit**.
5. (18:3-6) False religion attracts **kindred** spirits that are just as eager to please self and satiate greed as their own self. They attract significant numbers because they're good at telling people what they want to **hear**, people disposed to **pleasing** their self rather than God.
6. (18:7-13) False religion destroys the **innocent** in the name of Christ, even claiming that it is His will that they do so. Their true motivation, however, is to **enrich** themselves and satisfy their **greed**.
7. (18:14-20) False religion is not content with **creating** something for itself alone; it always seeks to become part of the established and recognized **legitimate** church of Christ. This is because it originates with Satan who desires to destroy the **things** of Christ.
8. (18:21-26) False religion uses the terms and appearance of conformity to Christianity to **justify** themselves. They take—usually with no apologies—from their original source and redefine it as their own, resorting to **threats** and **intimidation** of anyone seeking to expose them.
9. (18:27-31) The final destination of false religion is the inevitable result of their consistent **behavior** and repeated **choices** contrary to God's Word and ways: **judgment** and **destruction**.