

## The Nature of the False Teacher

2Peter 2:12-19

**I.** Have you ever referred to someone's nature?

1. For example we might say, "that's just his/her nature."
2. Or we might say it's in their nature to do this or that.

**II.** When we speak of someone's nature what are we talking about?

1. Speaking of someone's nature actually refers to the essence of who they are.
2. This is the heart of the individual and is different from their characteristics, because characteristics are a product of one's nature.

**III.** In our lesson on 2Peter 2:1-3, we saw that Peter provided some characteristics of some false teacher.

1. They secretly introduce their destructive heresies.
2. They deny the Master who bought them.
3. They are destructive.

**IV.** I also stated in that lesson that all false teachers are not the same.

1. Some teach out of innocent ignorance, **Acts 18: 24-28**
2. Some know better, but have a hard time letting go, **John 12:42**
3. Some are malicious and will not accept the truth, **1Tim. 4:1-3**

**V.** The question we might ask is why? Why do some false teachers act in the way described in 2Peter 2:1-3? The answer to that question is found in 2Peter 2:12-19.

1. Here Peter describes the nature of some false teacher.
2. This is the essence of who they are and explains why they act the way they do.

**VI.** This is an important lesson for us today.

**VII.** Understanding the nature of a person helps us to understand why they do what they do; and rather than dealing with the symptoms of their nature, which won't really change them, we can deal with the heart of the matter.

**VIII.** In regards to the false teachers Peter is speaking of, sometimes their nature is so corrupt that any attempt to help them will not have the desired result and to allow them to continue in our presence will only help them to destroy some faithful Christians. And so they must be exposed and removed from our presence.

**Trans:** Let's consider the nature of these false teachers.