

THE BEST WAY TO GUARD AGAINST FALSE TEACHING AND TEACH YOUR KIDS SO THEY DON'T FALL PREY TO IT.

Core Principle

The best defense against false teaching is deep familiarity with true teaching. You don't guard your children by exposing them to every counterfeit—you anchor them so firmly in the real gospel that counterfeits are obvious.

This is exactly how Jesus, Paul, and the early church approached discernment.

1. Ground Your Family in Scripture (The Primary Safeguard)

A. Teach them the whole counsel of God

Acts 20:27 Children who know the storyline of Scripture—creation, fall, redemption, restoration—can spot distortions quickly.

B. Make Scripture the authority in your home

False teaching always begins with undermining apostolic authority. So teach your children:

- *“We obey Scripture even when culture disagrees.”*
- *“God’s Word is our standard for truth.”*

C. Train them to read Scripture in context

Most false teaching comes from verses taken out of context. Show them:

- who wrote the passage
- who it was written to
- what problem it addressed
- how it fits the whole Bible

This builds discernment.

2. Teach Them the Gospel Clearly and Repeatedly

Children who know the gospel deeply are nearly impossible to deceive.

Teach them:

- **Who Jesus is** (fully God, fully man)
- **What Jesus did** (substitutionary atonement)
- **Why we need Him** (sin, holiness, justice)
- **How salvation works** (grace alone, through faith alone)
- **What the Christian life looks like** (obedience, holiness, love)

False teaching ALWAYS distorts one of these.

3. Teach Them How False Teaching Works (Biblical Pattern)

Scripture gives a consistent profile:

A. False teaching is subtle

Genesis 3:1 — “Did God really say...?” It begins with doubt, not denial.

B. False teaching twists Scripture

Acts 20:30 — “speaking twisted things.”

C. False teaching appeals to feelings over truth

2 Timothy 4:3 — “itching ears.”

D. False teaching elevates human authority

Colossians 2:8 — “human tradition.”

E. False teaching redefines sin

Jude 4 — “pervert the grace of God.”

Teaching your children these patterns gives them radar.

4. Build a Home Culture of Theological Conversation

Children learn discernment through **normal, everyday dialogue**.

Ask questions like:

- “What does the Bible say about that?”
- “Does this message match Scripture?”
- “Is this teacher pointing us to Jesus or to themselves?”
- “Does this idea agree with the gospel?”

Normalize **testing everything** (1 Thess. 5:21).

5. Teach Them How to Evaluate Teachers

Give them simple, memorable tests:

The 5 Biblical Tests of a True Teacher

1. **Do they teach Scripture accurately?**
2. **Do they exalt Christ, not themselves?**
3. **Do they preach repentance and holiness?**
4. **Do they live a life consistent with Scripture?**
5. **Do they guard the gospel without compromise?**

If any of these fail, your children should know to be cautious.

6. Anchor Them in a Healthy Local Church

A strong church provides:

- doctrinal stability
- godly examples
- biblical preaching
- accountability

- community discernment

Children who grow up in a church that honors Scripture are far less vulnerable.

7. Teach Them How to Spot Emotional Manipulation

False teachers often use:

- fear
- shame
- flattery
- promises of prosperity
- “new revelation”
- “God told me...” language

Show your children that **truth is not measured by emotion**, but by Scripture.

8. Encourage Questions—Never Shut Them Down

Children who feel safe asking hard questions become adults who discern truth.

If they ask:

- “Why does the Bible say that?”
- “Why do some churches teach differently?”
- “How do we know what’s true?”

Answer with Scripture, patience, and clarity.

9. Model Discernment Yourself

Your children will imitate what you do more than what you say.

Let them see you:

- reading Scripture
- testing teachings
- rejecting error
- choosing truth
- loving Christ
- obeying God's Word

Discernment is caught as much as taught.

10. Pray for Discernment Over Your Children

Discernment is a work of the Holy Spirit.

Pray:

- that they love truth
- that they hate evil
- that they recognize deception
- that they cling to Christ
- that they walk in wisdom

God delights to answer these prayers.