Heretic - Guilty as Charged

FTAP Teaching | Understanding labels, doctrine, and covenant faithfulness

Why This Teaching?

Church discipline, doctrinal boundaries, and the speaker’s personal experience of being called heretical

The Word Hairesis

Speaker’s word study: choice, faction, party, or sect. Context still governs the meaning.

Paul and the Way

Acts 24:14 - Paul worships according to the Way, called a sect by others.

Examples of Religious Sects

Acts 15:5; Acts 5:17; Acts 26:4-5 - Pharisees, Sadducees, and Paul’s background.

What About Factions?

1 Corinthians 11:18-19 - Differences are mentioned in a setting that also critiques divisions.

Destructive Heresies

2 Peter 2:1-3 - False teachers can introduce teaching that harms the community.

Institutional Authority

The speaker criticizes treating agreement with leaders as equivalent to fidelity to Scripture.

Ignatius and Church History

Historical interpretation in the Teaching; verify original letters and dates before treating claims as settled.

Service, Not Dominion

Matthew 20:25-28; 2 Corinthians 1:24 - Leadership is framed as service.

Guilty as Charged

Speaker’s conclusion: he accepts the label if it merely means dissenting from institutional doctrine.

Heresy and Apostasy

Distinguish a sect, destructive faction, and the deliberate turning away from Yehovah.

Testing Prophetic Claims

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 - The test is loyalty to Yehovah, not only signs and wonders.

Inherited Beliefs

Jeremiah 16:19 - The speaker applies the warning about inherited lies to unquestioned tradition.

Warnings from Jeremiah

Jeremiah 23:16-22; Jeremiah 6:13-15 - False reassurance and teaching.

The Testing of the Heart

Deuteronomy 8:2-3; Genesis 22:1-18 - Responses to the word reveal loyalties.

Fear of Exclusion

John 9:18-23 - Parents fear being expelled from the synagogue.

Faithful Witness

John 9:24-34 - A healed man persists in stating what happened.

Fellowship Discussion

Participants address church divisions, family tensions, patience, and healing.

Key Takeaways

Examine Scripture; distinguish claims and interpretations; resist destructive teaching; practice patience.

Reflection

How can believers disagree, test teachings, and protect relationships without surrendering biblical convictions?