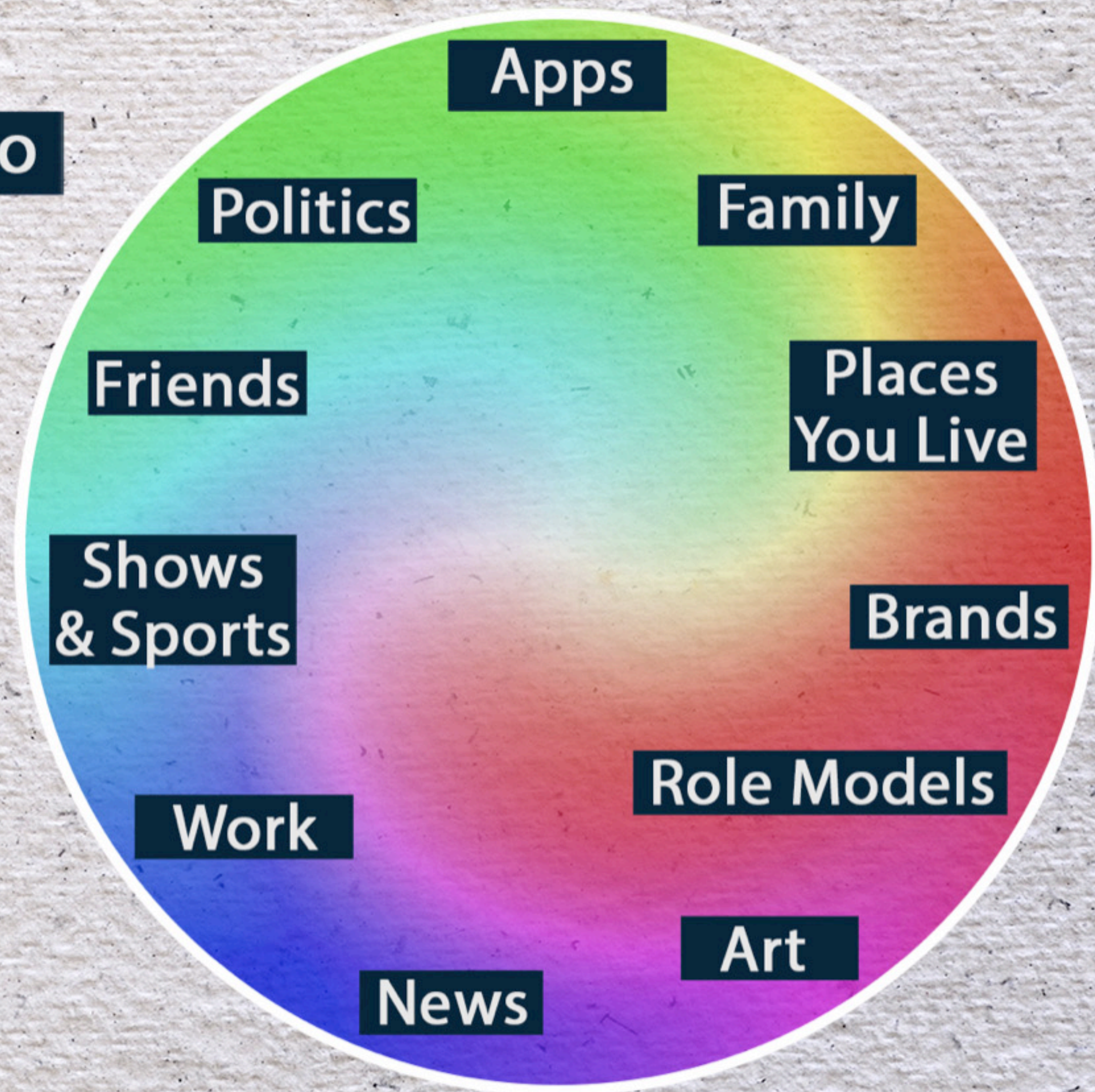




VOICES

**The voices you listen to
are the voices
that disciple you.**





Surveillance Technology + Screen Addiction

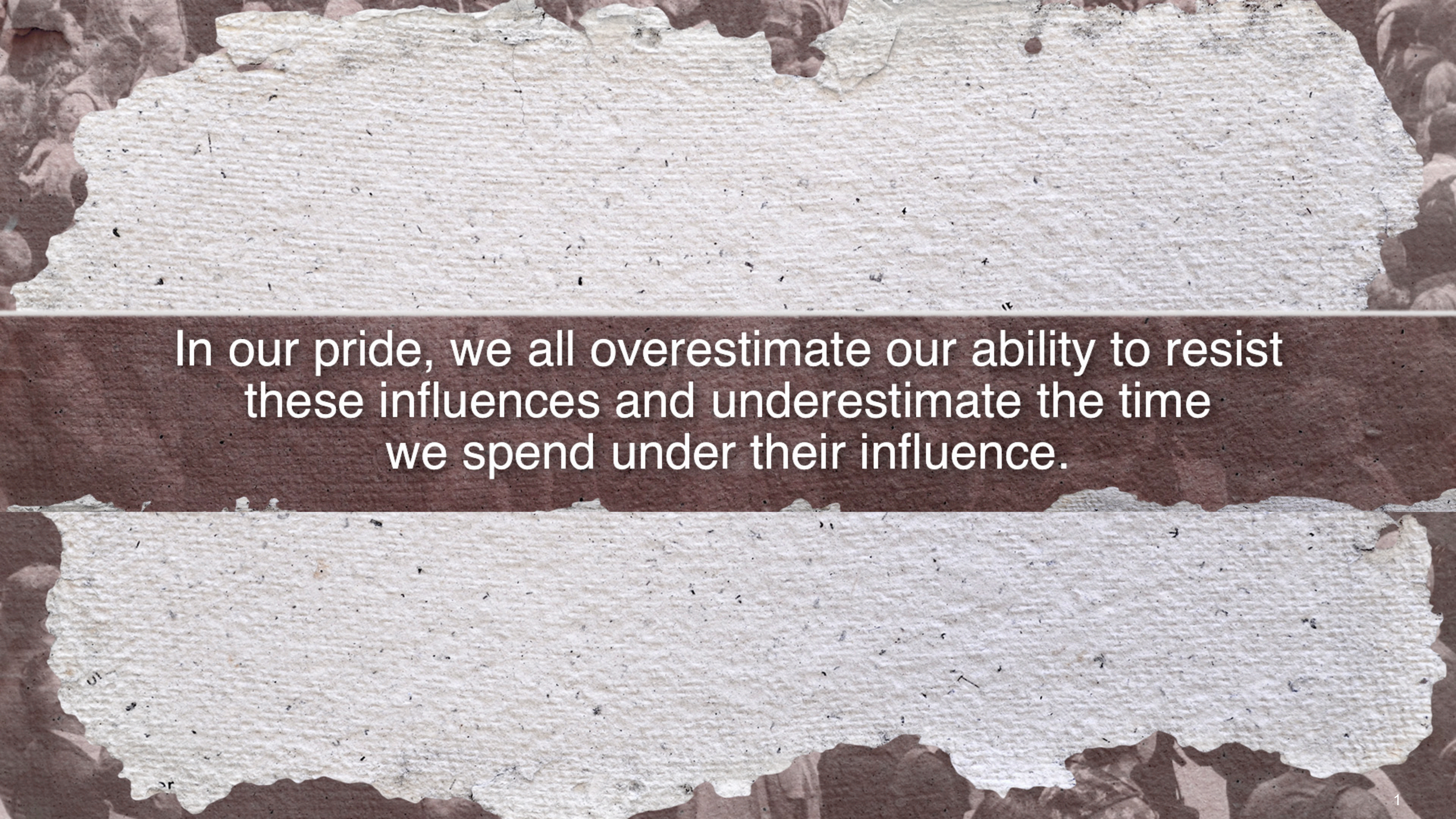
Surveillance Technology

Technologies you welcome into your life because they aid your lifestyle, provide convenience, or offer entertainment. All the while they gather detailed personal data about you and then analyze it with sophisticated algorithms to predict your behavior in order to pitch goods and services tailored to your preferences.



Screen Addiction

The average American spends approximately
11 hours a day on a screen.

A piece of torn, aged paper with a dark brown background. The paper is light beige with some dark spots and fibers. The edges are irregular and jagged, suggesting it was torn from a larger sheet. The background is a solid, dark brown color.

In our pride, we all overestimate our ability to resist these influences and underestimate the time we spend under their influence.

VOICE AUDIT

MONDAY

WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY

SUNDAY

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

SATURDAY

Voice

Time

News

2 hrs

Social Media

1.5 hrs

Netflix

2 hrs

Group Text Thread

40 min

Bible

ummm...

Small Group

1.5 hrs

Week 1

What voices are you listening to? What stories are they telling you? What moral universe are they giving you?

Week 2

How do I know if they're wrong?

Week 3 & 4

What voices should I be listening to?

Matthew 7:15-23

“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire.”

Matthew 7:15-23

“Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. Not everyone who calls out to Me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of My Father in Heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to Me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in Your name and cast out demons in Your name and performed many miracles in Your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from Me, you who break God’s laws.’”

False prophets are a real thing
and a real threat.

- ψευδοπροφήτης -- pseudo-prophētēs
- Pseudo means lying or false.

False prophets are a real thing and a real threat.

- Academics, Pastors, Authors, Podcasters, Politicians, Influencers, Thought-Leaders, Media Personalities, Activists, Celebrities, Artists, etc.
- Anyone in a place of authority and/or influence making truth-claims.

False prophets are a real thing and a real threat.

- They are difficult to spot
- "Vicious wolves disguised as harmless sheep"

Acts 20:28-31

"So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. Watch out!"

False prophets are a real thing and a real threat.

- They are slammed relentlessly across the entire Bible.
- False prophets, false teachers, false witnesses, pseudo apostles, antichrists

The Torah – Deuteronomy 13:1-3

“Suppose there are prophets among you or those who dream dreams about the future, and they promise you signs or miracles, and the predicted signs or miracles occur. If they then say, ‘Come, let us worship other gods’—gods you have not known before— do not listen to them...”

Historical Literature – 1 Kings 18:40

Then Elijah commanded, “Seize all the prophets of Baal. Don’t let a single one escape!” So the people seized them all, and Elijah took them down to the Kishon Valley and killed them there.

Wisdom Literature – Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things the Lord hates — no, seven things He detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, **a false witness who pours out lies,** a person who sows discord in a family.

Prophetic Literature – Jeremiah 23:16, 28

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says to His people:
“Do not listen to these prophets when they prophesy to you, filling you with futile hopes. They are making up everything they say. They do not speak for the Lord! ...Let these false prophets tell their dreams, but let My true messengers faithfully proclaim My every word.”

Paul – Romans 16:17-18

Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.

Peter – 2 Peter 2:1-3

But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

John – 1 John 4:1

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

Hebrews 13:7-9

Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas.

James – James 3:1

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Apocalyptic Literature – Revelation 20:10

Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.



There is such a thing as truth.

Test #1 - Does their teaching "know" Jesus
and encourage obedience?

Matthew 7:22-23 – On judgment day many will say to Me,
'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in Your name and cast out
demons in Your name and performed many miracles in
Your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away
from Me, you who break God's laws.'"



God's love language is obedience.

Test #1 - Does their teaching "know" Jesus and encourage obedience?

- They preach the truths they like or that find cultural approval and ignore the ones that don't.
- They break away from the historic and orthodox witness of the Church.

Read Scripture In Community

HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY

The Great Saints who came before us.

A LOCAL CHURCH

My Leaders in my Church.

MY INNER CIRCLE

Those in Christ walking with me.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Christians from countries and cultures not like mine.

Test #2 - Do they speak and live with Christian character?

Matthew 7:16-20 – “You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.”

Matthew 7:15-23

“Be wary of false preachers who smile a lot, dripping with practiced sincerity. Chances are they are out to rip you off some way or other. Don’t be impressed with charisma; look for character. Who preachers are is the main thing, not what they say.”

1. Scripture

Do you meditate over Scripture daily?

2. A Surrendered Conscience

Do you have a daily time of confession and repentance?

3. Others in Christ

Is there anyone in Christ you're allowing to call you out?

A Prayer for Church Leaders

God, let the size of my platform never grow past the size of my character. Let the size of my character grow no matter the size of my platform. Let the size of my character be my focus and the size of my platform be Yours.
Holy Spirit, help. Amen.

FRUIT OF THE FLESH

- Sexual Immorality
- Impurity
- Lustful Pleasures
- Anger Outbursts
- Selfish Ambition
- Drunkenness
- Wild Parties
- Envy
- Idolatry
- Sorcery
- Hostility
- Quarreling
- Jealousy
- Dissension
- Division
- Other Sins Like These

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control

Test #3 - Are they willing to suffer for the truth?
Matthew 5:11-12 - "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are My followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in Heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way."

VOICE EVALUATION

LIST VOICE HERE

Test #1

Does their teaching seem to “know” Jesus and encourage obedience?

Is this person or voice Christian?

How do they point me toward obedience?

What are they teaching me to love?

What Biblical/Orthodox Christians’s truths do they twist or ignore?

Test #2

Do they speak and love with Christian character?

What fruit of the Spirit do they have?

What fruit of the flesh do they have?

Do they seem to be listening and growing in the voice of God?

Test #3

Are they willing to suffer for the truth?

When have they challenged you in a way that risked the relationship (the last 10%)?

What have they given up for Jesus and the truth?

“Christian consciousness begins in the painful realization that what we had assumed was the truth is in fact a lie.

Prayer is immediate: ‘Deliver me from the liars, God! They smile so sweetly but lie through their teeth’ (Ps 120). Rescue me from the lies of advertisers who claim to know what I need and what I desire, from the lies of entertainers who promise a cheap way to joy, from the lies of politicians who pretend to instruct me in power and morality, from the lies of psychologists who offer to shape my behavior and my morals so that I will live long, happily and successfully, from the lies of religionists who ‘heal the wounds of this people lightly...’”

“...from the lies of moralists who pretend to promote me to the office of captain of my fate, from the lies of pastors who ‘get rid of God’s command so you won’t be inconvenienced in following the religious fashions” (Mt 7:8). Rescue me from the person who tells me of life and omits Christ, who is wise in the ways of the world and ignores the movement of the Spirit. The lies are impeccably factual. They contain no errors. There are no distortions or falsified data. But they are lies all the same, because they claim to tell us who we are and omit everything about our origin in God and our destiny in God.”

“They talk about the world without telling us that God made it. They tell us about our bodies without telling us that they are temples of the Holy Spirit. They instruct us in love without telling us about the God who loves us and gave Himself for us”

– Eugene Peterson P28 in ‘A Long Obedience in the Same Direction’