Heretics and Heresies
Tit. 3:10; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 Cor. 11:19

Introduction:
A. The root meaning is to choose, hence to choose sides or divide.
   1. Heretics are one who cause division.
   2. Heresies are things which cause division.
B. Heretics and heresies are expected by Bible students. (1 Cor. 11:19; Acts 20:29, 30; 2 Pet. 2:1)
C. Characteristics of most heretics and heresies are described in 2 Pet. 2:

Discussion:
I. They Begin in Private (2 Pet. 2:1; Gal. 4:5)
   A. Quietly gain sympathy and confidence of untaught, unstable, and unhappy. (cf. Pet. 2:14)
   B. Later, go public when have gained enough support.

II. They Conceal Their Nature (2 Pet. 2:3, 18)
   A. By words
      1. “Feigned” from plastos, carefully molded – if challenged cry misunderstood.
      2. “Good words and fair speeches” (Rom 6:17) – talk a good game.
   B. By appearance.
      2. Appear so innocent (Mt. 7:15) – close look at fruits will reveal character.

III. They Exploit Human Weaknesses
   A. Best of brethren are vulnerable.
      1. Samuel’s age and unfaithful sons (1 Sam 8:5).
      2. Paul’s speech (2 Cor. 10:10).
   B. Best of congregations have short-comings.
      1. Heretics exploit the to their advantage.
      2. “Not enough” is fertile ground:
         a. Members not friendly enough
         b. Lessons not deep enough or simple enough
         c. Performance of worship not good enough.

IV. They Despise Authority (2 Pet. 2:10).
   A. Resent having to submit to anyone (cf. 1 Pet. 5:5)
   B. Resent being told what to do – by preachers, elders or even God.
   C. Refuse to have their “rights” restricted (cf. 1 Cor 6:12; 9:19-22; 10:23-24).

V. They Abuse Freedom (2 Pet. 2:19).
   A. Foment strife and/or apostasy in name of liberty.
   B. Become slaves to corruption, self-will and anarchy.
      1. Liberties that add nothing to scripturalness, spirituality or edification.

Conclusion:
A. Truth lovers can afford to be open, honest and above board – have nothing to conceal.
B. Truth frees and unites in Christ – Heretics and heresy to be rejected.