

The Dangerous Peril of the Church

2 Timothy 3:1-5

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Paul tells Timothy that he is witnessing in the Ephesian church the perilous times that will characterize the “last days.” What is this dangerous peril which threatens the church? None other than an infiltration of those who manifest *a combination of two deadly character traits which will kill the true church*:

Deadly character trait #1: Inordinate Affections

The list of vices (2-4) is distinguished by misguided love.

A. The loves which they embrace:

- 1) Love of self
- 2) Love of money
- 3) Love of pleasure

B. The loves which they replace:

- 1) Love of family (natural affection)
- 2) Love of good
- 3) Love of God

Deadly character trait #2: Insincere Christianity