

Let No One Cheat You

- ***Beware lest anyone cheat you*** through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. Col 2:8-9
- ***Let no one cheat you of your reward***, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, Col 2:18-19

It is Impossible to Imagine

- Those who are born with good and honest hearts find it impossible to believe anyone who is nice or kind to them could have sinister motives – doing it to cheat or harm them.
- Since they can't imagine doing this to others, they can't imagine anyone doing it to them.
- Sadly, sooner or later, most of us find out that not everyone is honest, decent or caring.
- Sadly, children must be warned: “Don't talk to strangers!” There **are** evil people who will exploit and harm others for their own desires.

It Started in the Garden of Eden

- *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Gen 3:1-5*

Jesus Summed up This Encounter

- *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. Jn. 8:44*
- Satan used a “lie” to “cheat” Adam and Eve out of their lives: A cunning “murderer”
- Eve could not imagine such malice and evil intent.
- She was like a little child: Trusted then died!

Satan is the Father of Liars

- Even with all this evidence, it is still hard to warn some of us that this could be possible.
- Some call this **naive**, that isn't really what it is!
- Those still in “*God’s image and likeness*” (Gen. 1:26) naturally seek to “*love your neighbor as yourself*” (Mt. 22:39).
- This “*natural affection*” leads us to feel *agape-love, and trust for everyone*.
- We were not being naive just reflecting true humanity.
- But children of Satan have different ethics and affections than children of God.

The Contrast

- Those of Satan have a “*heart trained in covetous practices*” (2Pet. 2:14).
- God would never act like this and neither will His children who are:
- “*blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*” (Phil. 2:15).
- But not everyone loves as themselves.

Jesus Warned His Disciples

- *“I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” Mt. 10:16*
- *they are blind guides. And if the blind guide the blind, both shall fall into a pit. Mt 15:14*

The Deceptive Old Prophet

- God sent a young prophet to Jeroboam to condemn his new altar and new gods.
- After Jeroboam sought to arrest him, God struck him with paralysis and then with an entreaty to God, God healed him.
- Jeroboam invited him to come home with him. Why??? Wasn't for good things
- God had protected him with a command:

God Protected the Man of God

- *"Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward." 8 But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place. 9 For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.'" 10 So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel. 1Kings 13:7-10*

An Old “*false*” Prophet Lied to Him

- *Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." 16 And he said, "I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place. 17 For I have been told by the word of the Lord, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'" 18 He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.) 19 So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water. 1Kings 13:15-19*

I always Think of Paul's Warning

- *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. Gal 1:6-9*
- Don't let anyone cheat you!!!

The Only Solution to the Danger

- They can be friendly, kind, generous, wise and enjoyable. God gives this warning:
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-8*
- This would have saved Adam and Eve.
- It would have saved the young prophet.
- It will save us.
- We want to return to the first slide:

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Not Everyone is Like Us!!!!

- We are warned against:
- *false prophets in sheep's clothing who are ravenous wolves* Mt. 7:15-20),
- *false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works"* (2Cor. 11:13-15).
- Truly, Not everyone is like us!!

What Motivates such people

- *by covetousness will exploit you with deceptive words” (2Pet. 2:3).*
- *their own conscience seared with a hot iron,” (1Tim. 4:1-2)*
- *“they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them” (Gal. 4:17),*
- *“to draw away the disciples after themselves” (Acts 20:30)*

- *they entice in the lusts of the flesh, by lasciviousness, those who are just escaping from them that live in error 2Pet. 2:18*
- *ruin whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for dishonest gain Titus 1:11*



Doctrines Change – Principles Don't

- *Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds*
2Jn. 1:9-11

Must Trust Jesus

- *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* Jn. 8:31-32.
- NOT MEN: *“in vain they worship me teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”* Mt. 15:9
- *For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men”* and *“you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition”* Mk. 7:9.
- Such men are *“alive and well”* today
- *“evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived”* 2Tim. 3:13

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- *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jude 4*
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