

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: DO NOT BE DECEIVED****DO NOT BE DECEIVED - posted by Onesimus4God (), on: 2021/8/2 9:06**

1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Contrary to popular belief, the word "evil" does not necessarily mean "demonic". It simply means there is a void of GOOD. So when someone communicates what is not true, it is by default, not good, and therefore EVIL. And it is these things which are not true, that can corrupt our noble character in CHRIST within us and influence our behavior in such a way that it is "not good", or "evil".

1Co 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame. Now here is an interesting statement. "Awake to righteousness, and SIN NOT. (Emphasis added). Our LORD said, "SIN NO MORE" and here Paul is essentially saying the same thing. What a LAME statement to make, if one who is truly converted cannot help but sin, as some claim. One would lose their credibility to make such a statement, were it not in the power of the listener to actually carry out this instruction. And it is an "instruction".

1Co_10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

"No temptation" means "not one temptation". Temptation is not the same as "sin". We are tempted when we are drawn away from righteousness, obedience, by our own LUSTS (desires). And it is here, in our own thoughts where the battle over sin is waged, and won or lost. If our thoughts about our lusts linger a bit too long, we are apt to act upon what our flesh desires, in rebellion to what GOD desires.

ONLY the truly converted have the ability to resist temptations. It is the empowerment that comes with REPENTANCE (stop sinning), that gives us victory over our thoughts.

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) What are these "strong holds"? (that have a strong hold on us?)

2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Temptations are birthed in our imaginations. We form a mental image of an act of SIN, in our mind. Whatever is imagined that is sin, it is so because it violates the commandments of GOD which are all GOOD.

These same imaginations are evident, in that they violate all we know about GOD, HIS goodness, HIS purity, and HIS love. All sin is a violation of love. For it is in LOVE that HIS commandments were given. Not to incarcerate us, but set us free from the wages of sin, which is DEATH.

There is only one means of destruction of the "strong holds" in our hearts and lives. The OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST. We must walk as HE walked. HE was tempted just like we were, yet HE never once sinned. If we are to walk as HE walked, we must SIN NOT. We must CRUCIFY our thoughts and self will, that violate the law of LOVE by rebelling against the two great commandments.

This rebelling, makes us enemies of GOD. HE will destroy HIS enemies. But HE shall save to the uttermost, those who have the "obedience of CHRIST", within whom HE lives HIS life.

So which group are you really in? Faith unto obedience? Or lust unto rebellion and disobedience? One shall be saved, if they endure to the end. The others?

Re: DO NOT BE DECEIVED - posted by Platy, on: 2021/8/2 19:27

Great message. Much truth in few words.

A similar message:

Flirting with the Devil by Robert Wurtz II

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

Our passage is a reference back to the Old Testament where God commanded Israel to enter the Promised Land and commence throwing down all the altars and idols, even driving out the Canaanites from the land. We read this sobering passage, "And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants." (Leviticus 18:25) Is this God saying that these people were as vomit? That's right. They were as that thing that would enter your belly to kill you, but as a natural God-given response you system heaves out the deadly contents before it has a chance to do the job. The land had vomited the people out for their evil, but according to Judges 2:1-20 the people of God refused to utterly throw down the altars and drive out this people. Instead they began to fellowship with them.

Unequally yoked

Samson used a phrase in Judges 14:18 that comes front and center; ... "If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle." (Judges 14:18) The story is common so we will not visit it in detail, but Samson had given a riddle to the Philistines and his wife was privy to it. She told the Philistines the secret and Samson expressed this betrayal as the Philistines "plowing with his heifer". The trouble with that is that Samson should not have been plowing with her himself. Why? Because God warned the people of God over and over not to become romantically involved with the Philistines because they will draw the people of God to their false idols and gods. He had been "unequally yoked" with this woman and it was he in fact that was "plowing with the wrong heifer". But Samson loved to yoke up with such figures as her and he will eventually give in to Delilah that will ultimately divulge not the secret of his riddle, but the secret of his power.

Drunk on compromise

The people that were to be driven out of the land, that the Israelites were keeping around were some of the most evil people that ever drew breath. This area of the world was notorious for wickedness. Sodom and Gomorrah was once in this area, appropriately situated near the very lowest spot on earth, the Dead sea. This sea of death is rightly so called because that's what it is, "dead". It is over 8X saltier than the ocean. Lot pitched his tent towards this area and soon was living in Sodom. Figuratively and quite literally this place was on the very edge of Hell. These people were deliberately situated as far from God as they could get. If serving God can be viewed as a mountain-top experience, what are we to make of a city built at the exact opposite end of the topographical map? They wanted to be as far from God as they could possibly get. Lot, apparently under the delirium of compromise, marched his family right in to this devil infested, sin intoxicated, high-handed and rebellious assembly.

An invitation to Satan

Satan does not pass up invitations. If you flirt with him, he will take the bait every single time. He doesn't discriminate, he wants to plow with every soul he possibly can. I recall as a child that homes would be set up a "safe houses" so that on our walk home from school, if we were being harassed or were hurt, we could walk up to the door and get help. These homes were identified by a sign in the lower window of the house. All the signs looked alike. He said to us children, "you are welcome to come here and you are safe here." The sign identified the home as a safe house. Likewise, we identify ourselves with the thing we want to be friendly with. If we want to be friendly with the world we will identify ourselves with the world. We communicate our intentions by what we identify ourselves with. Nobody has any trouble identifying Amish folks. They are identifying themselves a certain way to communicate their intentions. For some, they will feel a camaraderie and will be drawn to the identity; others will be repelled and have nothing to do with them. Why? Because they telegraph their intentions by the way they carry themselves. Common sense really.

Symptoms of destruction

The question most people ask about these type things is, "what's wrong with it?" What's wrong with Samson marrying a Philistine? What's wrong with dressing like a Goth or tattooing skulls and demonic symbols on my body? Noting at all if you want to identify with darkness. But what did Paul say? What communion hath light with darkness? Some people seem to almost get a high off of flirting with the demonic. They bring all manner of devilish things into their lives and then have the nerve to blame God when their lives are destroyed and their family is demon possessed. God told Israel to throw down and ruthlessly destroy the altars and idols. Understand that a pagan idol is not a decoration for your home. Dream catchers, pentagrams, occult symbols, etc. ad infinitum, have no place in the Christian's life. It is no different than the sign I used to see in the windows walking home from school shouting, "You are welcome here!" The devil knows where he is welcome; all he has to do is look at you and see what you are identifying yourself with. It's too late to play dumb once your life is ruined.

Fashionable evil

We live in a time like unto Sodom and Gomorrah. People will fragrantly identify themselves with Satan and darkness and then wipe their mouth as if they have done nothing wrong. They are only fooling themselves. The devil knows when he is welcome some place. For example, we woke up a few years ago and it was suddenly "OK" to watch people suck blood and engage in all manor of occult activity as long as we could attach the behavior to a seductive and romantic story line. What are you saying? "Come here Devil and bind thy neck with me; be my heifer that we might plow together." What madness. What invitation to total destruction. I recall as a young child a woman being on the late night television that dressed herself as a seductive witch. Black hair, black dress, black eye-liner, black fingernails, black everything. When I think of that woman I think of Jezebel that was thrown down before the man of God and trampled to death for her evil. It was bad enough in the home of a sinner on late night TV, but what happens when all this is done in the name of fashion and expression? Why would a Christian want to identify with God's sworn enemies. Do you like to flirt with darkness? You are opening yourself up to devils. You are begging to be demonized. If they who practice such things could see the demons swarming around them when they entertain evil and identify themselves as his bride they would not sleep at night. Demons are pictured even as scorpions in the book of Revelation (Revelation 9:3). Would you walk into a room with life sized scorpions for a night of entertainment? This is mere picture language meant to arrest our attention that these creatures mean business and their sting will devastate. God told Israel in Judges 2 that he would not drive their enemies out from before them because they refused to stop the compromise, but that the enemy would become a thorn in their side. How much closer can a messenger from Satan get than "in your side" (2 Corinthians 12:7)? Not because you were being persecuted for the purposes of God, but because you opened the door to the Devil and he walked right in.

Run for your soul

Many people today are simply in denial. The enemy has them duped into thinking that there is nothing to all of these things. Symbols don't mean anything, how I dress don't mean anything, etc. Really? Then why is the Bible loaded with symbolism? From numbers to objects the Bible is loaded with symbols. From the brazen serpent in the wilderness to the golden lamp stands in the Revelation, we have symbols. We are warned not to touch evil things. Why? Because we are telegraphing our desires and intentions by what we identify with and what we entertain. The devil can take a hint. His song is as the old tune goes, "Just give me some kind of sign girl (boy)..." and he'll come a running. It's too late once the enemy gets a foothold in your mind and he wins you over to his cause. By the time you start justifying all these things you are already under his delusion. If you are involved in these things, flee even now! Run for your soul! Not as Lot's wife who turned back to see one last time, but turn and run while there is still hope and you are still reachable.

Re: Thank you - posted by Onesimus4God (), on: 2021/8/3 15:51

Thank you Platy for posting Robert's piece. I love Robert's work. We've known each other for many years. :)

Re: - posted by Platy, on: 2021/8/3 16:46

No problem.