

Are You Being Seduced By the Devil?

Sunday, August 18, 2019
Mike Miller
Straight Paths Bible Church

2 Corinthians 11:2-4 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Colossians 2:4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Galatians 3:1-3 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing** spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1 John 2:26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

- I. It is a troubling thing to watch as one after another professing Christian leaves the old ways and embraces the new ways of this idolatrous generation.
 - A. We must think about this matter and study the Word of God, and pray for answers as to why and how this is happening.
 - B. It is spiritual adultery and it is as ugly and vile as physical adultery.
 - C. To see a person who I have known for years as a brother or sister now with a different love, and yet trying to make everyone believe they have bettered themselves is appalling to look at.
 - 1. It is like seeing a close friend or relative with someone besides their wife or husband after having abandoned their spouse.
 - 2. It is just wrong and offensive and a grief of heart.

Ezekiel 13:10 Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:

- II. Seduce, entice, allure, beguile, deceive, tempt – are the words we find repeatedly in the Scriptures – especially in the New Testament.
 - A. So, is it possible for a true believer to be deceived?
 - 1. Of course it is or all these many Scriptures are just vain words!
 - 2. We should not be so secure that we feel no need to watch and be discerning and careful about what influences our feelings and thoughts.
 - B. Are all these warnings about being deceived directed to the lost people in the churches that are already deceived?
 - C. Why warn someone about being deceived when they are already deceived?

Mark 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

- D. The first thing we know about Satan is that he is a liar and a deceiver – that is his main game.
- E. These are the words the Bible uses to describe what he does and how he does it:

BEGUILE, – To delude; to deceive; to impose on by artifice or craft.

- 1. To elude by craft.
- 2. To elude any thing disagreeable by amusement, or other means; to pass pleasingly; to amuse.(not-think)

(*ELU'DE*, – To escape being seen; to remain unseen or undiscovered.)

SEDU'CTION –

- 1. The act of seducing or of enticing from the path of duty.
- 2. Appropriately, the act or crime of persuading a female, by flattery or deception, to surrender her chastity. A woman who is above flattery, is least liable to seduction; but the best safeguard is principle, the love and purity of holiness, the fear of God and reverence for His commandments.

ALLU'RE, v.t.

To attempt to draw to; to tempt by the offer of some good, real or apparent; to invite by something flattering or acceptable; as, rewards allure men to brave danger. Sometimes used in a bad sense, to allure to evil; but in this sense entice is more common. In Hosea 2:14, allure is used in its genuine sense; 2 Peter 2:18, in the sense of entice.

ENTICE, v.t. *L. titio, a firebrand.*

1. To incite or instigate, by exciting hope or desire; usually in a bad sense; as, to entice one to evil. Hence, to seduce; to lead astray; to induce to sin, by promises or persuasions. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. Prov. 1.
2. To tempt; to incite; to urge or lead astray.

TEMPT, v.t. *L. tento; teneo; Gr. the primary sense is to strain, urge, press.*

1. To incite or solicit to an evil act; to entice to something wrong by presenting arguments that are plausible or convincing, or by the offer of some pleasure or apparent advantage as the inducement. Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. James 1.

III. How do we explain what is wrong with contemporary worship?

- A. It is not that difficult to explain what is wrong with it:
 1. The association with the world.
 2. The atmosphere of the world.
 3. That the music is of the world, the flesh, and the devil is easily proven.
 4. The Old Testament accounts of idolatry are detailed enough to identify the music, the morals, the activities, the form of worship, and how they are identical to modern contemporary worship.
 5. The Old Testament declares plainly how God responded to this type of worship – He completely condemned it and rejected it and then He judged the people who were involved in it and tolerated it – especially the leaders.

IV. However, explaining what is wrong with it all will not convince those who have embraced this modern, idolatrous religion.

- A. It is not a matter of truth but a matter of feelings and passions with these people.
- B. They have been seduced, beguiled, allured, enticed, and deceived.
- C. Their feelings say what they are doing is right, and no amount of persuasion from the Bible, or any other source is going to persuade them to condemn what feels so right to them.

V. We have all heard the voice of Satan as he has tried to beguile us.

- A. We all know the process by which we are drawn away and enticed to leave the ways we have known and believed to be right.
- B. But even knowing all this and watching others around us fall by the wayside, we are still vulnerable to be beguiled.
- C. The reason for this is that we are not watchful enough about the things that stir our emotions and feelings.
- D. We are not careful enough with the things we allow to influence and affect us.
- E. We will tolerate too much variance from truth and righteousness.
- F. We fail to question the source of these things that we allow to entertain our thoughts and move our emotions.
- G. We neglect to exercise forethought and prudence about what comes next in the progression of things when we start giving up moral ground and changing directions.

VI. The devil deceives us with the same methods by which all deceit is accomplished.

- A. He does not speak to us the way we expect him to.
- B. Satan is always on our side and speaks to our self-pity, our desires, our pride.
- C. Flattery and feigned words of love that stir emotions and feelings and desires are what he uses to neutralize our defenses.

- D. He is the accuser of the brethren, which means he always points out the faults, sins, injustices of others and helps us to feel better about ourselves.
 - 1. He will suggest to your mind that you are not being treated right by God and others.
- E. He will try to persuade you that you are just being used and that you are not really loved, by God, and others.
- F. All these suggestions to your mind break down your defenses and are meant to get you to open the door to your heart.
- G. The whole goal is to excite your feelings to the point that you will abandon your commitments and what you have established as true and right and go with your feelings.
 - 1. But these feelings have been produced by lies and half-truths by an intelligence that has targeted you with the aim of conquering and devouring you.
- H. Feelings distort the truth when they become a part of the process of discerning truth from error.
- I. There is something about high emotion and excitement in the midst of a crowd that gives people a sense of empowerment and belonging and identity.
 - 1. This is why people go to ball games, concerts, coliseums, etc. – and now what they are calling “church.” It is not really their love for a game, but the emotional excitement of being with a huge crowd of other people who are there to unleash their emotions all together.
 - 2. They are there to celebrate their pride, their identity, and their idol.
- J. All this is a powerful tool of Satan, and it works very effectively.

VII. So the devil comes to church with his best and most effective weapon.

- A. He does not begin by brazenly propositioning a faithful child of God to throw it all to the wind and change up everything.
 - 1. He is more subtle than any beast of the field.
 - 2. He will move slowly and take his time and nor rush you about things.
- B. He begins just like any seducer does:
 - 1. With flattery and praise – by reminding you of all that you are doing right and what a good Christian you must be, and how you understand so much more than other people do.
 - 2. By sympathy with you and the injustices you have suffered, and continue to suffer, at the hands of others.
 - 3. By suggesting things to you that excite feelings and emotions and stir up desires in you for things that are not appropriate for an espoused bride to do or to think. (flirtations)
 - 4. He will pretend to love you and have your best interests and wellbeing as his concern.
 - 5. He will sing you a song that he has written himself, he will speak secret things to you and thus create this secret place where it is just you and him.
- C. But you should always remember that he is pretending to be someone he is not.
 - 1. All his sweet, seducing words, his lovely songs, his tender, sympathetic ways are nothing more than the bait he is using to lead you into his snare.
 - 2. People who are shallow minded Christians are no more aware of this than the women who are seduced by wicked men, who use the devil’s tactics to conquer them.
- D. That contemporary song that sounds so much like the old hymns, that has words that seem to be doctrinally sound were written by him with the sole purpose of breaking down your resistance to his advances on you.

1. It sparks an appetite in you to hear more from him, so you begin to search for it, and make opportunities for him to sing to you some more.
 2. It is what he uses to get you to open the window for him, or open the door to let him in closer.
- E. Those new views of doctrine, that make little of sin, and much of love, seem to be so obvious in the Bible – they are just another of his means of seducing you and leading you into his trap.
1. They also make the old, familiar ways and opinions seem so unappealing and out of date.
- F. The redefining of terms like sin, repentance, justification, holiness, righteousness, atonement, sanctification, and grace slowly remove your objections and deceive you into transferring your affections to another.
1. Everything is redefined to conform to your feelings and desires and make you free to pursue them without the restraints of your commitment to God and others.
- G. Those new people in your life who see things differently, the way you have begun to see them, were sent by him and are part of his strategy to get you to submit yourself to him.
- H. Be warned that things will progress to the point that he will demand that you abandon your first love – you cannot remain in fellowship and love with those whose company you have been a part of until now.
1. You will be alienated from the relationship with God and the relationship you have had with his people.
 2. You will start a new life, with new people, and a new god.
 3. But the memories of the previous relationship will haunt you continually.
 4. You will likely get to the point that you begin to hate everything and everyone from your previous relationship, and become obsessed with avoiding them .

VIII. The promises and rewards of God are for those who are found faithful.

- A. Apostates are not going to heaven.
- B. Only those who continue – that is, abide faithful.

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

- C. How phony is it when a wife leaves her husband for another man and continues to say she loves him?
- D. When a couple lives together for years and has children and then they divorce, and marry someone else, do they live to enjoy the family and the memories they had together? ...or does it all become bitterness and regret?

Ezekiel 13:10 Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:

- E. To leave the old and proven ways for bunch of lies and fantasies that are based upon manufactured feelings and emotions is the sure road to unhappiness, misery, regret, and destruction.
- F. Stay faithful to your first love.
- G. Be exclusively his.
- H. Be satisfied with his provision for you.
- I. Live rejoicing in what He is preparing for you for eternity and be willing to do without worldly excitement and acceptance and praise of other people.

- J. Nurture your love for Christ and guard it diligently with the knowledge that He is seeing all you say and do and how you react to the flirtations of his enemy.
- K. And when the voice of the tempter speaks to your mind, listen for the voice of your heavenly Spouse who loves you and is waiting for you as He comforts you and reassures you of his love and care for you, and his intentions for you in the future.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.