

5.25.20 - Satan's Methods of Operation

We need to remember that if we look deep enough into evil, we will find Satan at work. This implies that he is not calling attention to himself or his work. Satan is superior to us in intellect and we should not expect his deceit to be obvious. Our objective is to better recognize Satan's deceit in our beliefs especially naturism which should make it easier to join Jesus in forgiving those who cannot or will not understand for they know not what they do.

Satan seems to work on the easily deceived and have them put the more grounded people in a tight spot. Adam probably would have refused the forbidden fruit from Satan, but Adam having to refuse the fruit from Eve was a much harder choice. Choosing to follow Christ and tell Satan to get lost seems to be an easy choice, but choosing between your wife and Christ is a much harder choice. We tell ourselves that, "God will understand", after all He is the One who gave us the wife. Even if He does not understand, the consequences of displeasing God are uncertain, but it is well known what the results will be with an unhappy wife.

The man of God from Judah in 1 Kings 13:1-32 was commanded by God to deliver His message to Jeroboam King of Israel and return to Judah by a different route without stopping to eat or drink. Jeroboam did not like the message that God's man had delivered so he raised his hand and commanded that the man of God be taken captive. God dried King Jeroboam's arm and locked it at the elbow or shoulder so that the king could not bring it back to his body. Suddenly the king felt like he had brought a knife to a gunfight and begged the man of God to ask God to heal his arm. God healed the arm and the man of God turned down the king's offer of food and a reward as instructed by God.

The town prophet heard about this from his sons and wanted the honor of having the man of God as his guest either to add to his creditable as a prophet or to get an honor denied to the king. It was

clear that the man of God would need more than a simple invitation so the prophet lied about a vision instructing him to feed the man of God. This lie cost the man of God his life and the prophet took none of the blame.

Notice how hard it would be to place the blame for this lie on Satan. The prophet has a sin nature and could easily come up with the idea without help from Satan. There is no way to know where the idea originated, but it served Satan's purpose. The man of God knew he needed to refuse the offer from the king. but the offer from the prophet seemed to come from God. **This is Satan's most effective method!** Have someone who supposedly represents God deceive those who are trying to follow God. We think to ourselves that someone who went to college to study for the ministry could not possibly be wrong. Why waste time studying for ourselves...the pastor surely knows the Bible, right? Because if what the pastor teaches is not what God commanded, you could be facing a lion without a good defense. 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Also, in this story, note how hard the choice would have been. It was very much like Adam choosing between Eve or God. The man of God would wonder why God changed his mind, maybe He only wanted me to refuse the king and I got that right. **The lie cast doubt on the word of God.** If he refuses the prophet's offer, he will seem ungrateful and insinuate that the prophet is lying. Self-doubt would also creep in and the man of God would be wondering if God liked the other prophet better than himself and that's why God told him and not me. When we claim to be right with God about nakedness, we at the very least imply that the textile person is wrong. Most people see being wrong as a big negative and justify themselves by claiming the person with the contrary argument is the one in the wrong.

Another method used by Satan is improving on what God commanded or changing it a little. God will be impressed with us if we go the "extra mile" serving Him. He will understand if it is difficult getting everything exactly right and we do the best we can. Cain would be an example of this error. He probably thought that God would be impressed with his prize fruits and vegetables as an offering. It takes far more work caring for my crops than following some sheep around all day and eating wild fruit like Able. We always see our efforts bigger than anyone else around us. As you know God was not as impressed as Cain expected, but he still did not want to offer one of the animals that he would need to buy from his brother to get right with God. Either he or Satan came up with the idea of getting rid of the righteous person.

There are two methods here; improving on what God expects and dealing with the righteous. Improving on God's commands leads to rigid rules. Clothing standards can be justified this way. Prohibited activities like "work" on Sundays are justified this way. Diet restrictions would be another example which the Apostle Paul dealt with in Romans chapter 14. Believing that we are much closer to God if we keep these rules is Satan's deceit in this area. If we look at keeping these rules as a sacrifice, then Samuel's question and answer to Saul applies. **1Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.** Changes on either side of what God commanded would be disobedience. Neglecting some of His instructions or doing something not instructed are both sins, one is adding to God's Word and the other is taking away from it.

We see dealing with the righteous played out often in our world. Non-sexual nakedness is approved by God, but many Christians will try to remove those who believe this from their churches and not fellowship with them. It is plain that this is not God's method

to handle disagreements. Satan knows that a discussion of what the Bible actually says will expose his deceit, therefore to keep them quiet in any way possible is very important to him. When we meet with emotion and punishment before any consideration of the truthfulness of the position, we can be rather sure that Satan is at work somewhere. It could have started centuries ago making it impossible to see who started the deceit. Naturism is not the only area where this occurs. It happens far too often when ever someone's ideas are outside of the group think. This keeps the deceits hidden by "serving God" or "defending the faith". Saul of Tarsus before his conversion was a good example of this.

Fear is another method used by Satan. Adam and Eve made "clothing" because they feared God. **Gen 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.** Since they hid in the bushes, the fig leaf "clothing" was a way to look like a bush if they stood still. I hope God has videos of the event so we can see what the garments they made looked like. On second thought, that would mean there would be videos of the dumb things I did that I do not want the whole world to see.

Criminals are hard to control because they do not fear the loss of what little they have enough to refrain from their criminal activity. They also have faith in their skill to avoid being caught. Fear encouraged Abraham to lie to Pharaoh about his wife. Fear gained the Israelites another 40 years in the wilderness. Fear of the people caused Pilot to sentence an Innocent Man to death. This may be why Jesus did not want us to be attached to anything or anybody more than to Him. Fear of loss will keep us from following if we hang on to things and relationships too tightly. This fear of lost relationships keeps some people in the textile camp even if they can see that it is not biblical.

Balance is another method used by Satan to get us off course. We are commanded to seek the kingdom of heaven first. The extreme is represented by the statement, "he is so heavenly minded that he is no earthly good." But he who will not provide for his own is worse than an infidel. You have surely heard of people who spend so much effort and time providing for their family that they have no time for their family or church. Both extremes are out of God's will. Nakedness in this area is either completely cover the body especially the woman's body or whenever the body is naked, show it in an immoral activity or suggesting some immoral activity so the covered people can justify their clothing. Both work for Satan. Covering the body gets God's image out of sight. Covering the body increases curiosity about what is covered and leads to lust and porn which dishonors God and disgraces the body. The naked body shown dishonoring God leads to shame and immoral activities. Both will keep people away from God.

Human reasoning is another way that Satan leads us astray from God. The common phrase in Judges is an example how human reasoning leads astray. "They did that which was right in their own eyes" is always followed with a list of things that displeased God. Solomon who was the wisest man, except Jesus of course, who ever lived. He was led astray by the strange women he collected and God was displeased with the latter part of his life. This is not an expected end of a wise person's life. Yes, we have to use human reasoning, but that is why Satan can also use it. We have to depend on programming from our parents, teachers, society, friends, books, and pastors. All of these can be deceived and the brain doesn't have a deceit protection program. The Bible is the deceit protection program, but it must be studied not installed.

You may already know how this works with nakedness, but this will be review in that case. A woman's naked body causes a man to lust (deceit. programming from society tells a man he should

lust at the sight of bare skin on a woman) so we will cover the parts of the woman that cause lust. This gives a man a reason to lust--she did not cover enough skin. The woman sees her beautiful body not as a creation of God, but a source of shame because it causes others to sin. The man seeks for a way to see what the woman is keeping covered. If he does not find an acceptable way, then he goes for an unacceptable solution that will not be discovered. The end of this road is far worse than lusting after a naked body. Lots of naked bodies without sexual activities removes the lust, viewing porn only leads to more porn or more perverted porn or trying the activities shown. Lots of non-sexual nakedness forces you to see the person housed in the body, but with porn, you will not get past seeing the body as a source of pleasure.

Satan has less interest in getting you into sin than keeping you from doing it God's way. Cain's offering could also be view as an example of this deceit. Moses starting the freeing of the Hebrews from Egypt by murdering the task master and striking the rock a second time would be examples also. The most dangerous application of this deceit is how to get to heaven. If we have more good deeds than bad deeds, we will get into heaven is the usual deceit in this area. Even if it was true, which it definitely is not, we would weight our good much heavier than they merit and our bad works much lighter then a fair weight. The misconception of good and bad keeps people deceived by this false doctrine believing they are safe.

Lust is not the only problem that man is trying to solve his way with clothing. Human bodies look too similar and it is hard work to get attention by doing good works as suggested in **1Ti 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.** If you wear clothing in a naked group you have everyone's attention. If clothing is not too expensive, many people in a naked society will find a way to have clothing. Soon the only way to get

attention is with more clothing or different clothing. This expands into other problems with the body. We cover the parts that we think are unfit for public viewing (deceit), parts that we do not think measure up to society's standards, use clothing to show mood like mourning, rebellion and etc. We also begin to compare our naked body with all their flaws with clothed bodies with the flaws covered. This leads to poor body image and discontent with God for making us this way.

Another deceit involves compromise and tolerance. Satan takes a position that he is sure will be rejected by everyone claiming a belief in God. When his position is rejected as he knew it would be, he offers a position a little closer to what the Christians will accept which is also rejected. After many offers the Christians feel intolerant and move a little closer to Satan's position. This is repeated many times till the new position is far from the original position. The replacement of church-based education with public education is an example that should be easy to see the end results in our society. The deceit about clothing must have grown the same way. There is no way to identify where or when nakedness became a sin.

The blindness that comes with following Satan's deceits may be part of human reasoning or another form of deceit. We justify what we are doing with reasoning. We weigh the feedback that agrees with our reasoning more than what does not agree. After a few repetitions of the activity, we stop gathering feedback and become blind to the deceit until God puts a big speed bump in our path. I think naturists provide that bump for textile people and they react more like Satan would like them to than how God commands us to handle disagreements.

Because we do not know if the person disagreeing with us is doing it out of hatred, Satanic influence, sin nature, or false reasoning, we can not respond as if we know why he is acting like he is. This

is the area that we are not to judge, but we often do. It feels so right when we do it and so wrong when it is done to us. God only gave us control over how we react to what is done to us. He expects us to follow His example dealing with all the abuse and humiliation while here among us.

The bottom line of this rather long article is this...Satan has been deceiving God's people since the first two people were on earth. His main method of doing this is by convincing them to do something GOOD instead of doing something RIGHT.

It is Biblically right to live as He intended from the beginning, but for the religious it feels so good to have the "higher" standard. The problem is that the "higher" standard is the one that is causing all of the problems and the right thing to do would fix them. No wonder God commanded to not add to or take away from His Word.

It's like the old bumper sticker...God said it, I believe it, that settles it. I would simplify the statement just a bit and say that if God said it that settles it!