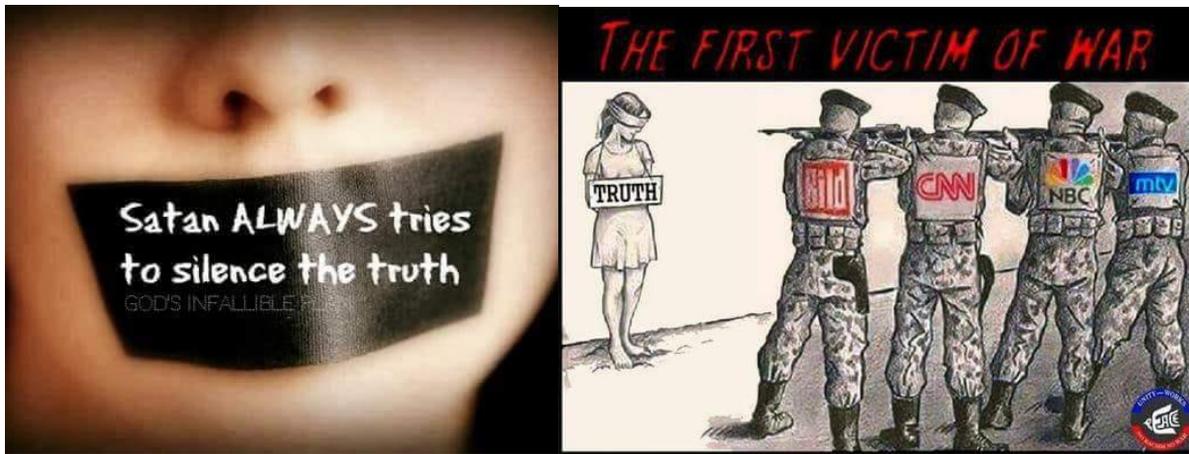


3.9.20 - Truth

We came across these memes recently and would like to apply them to the problem of spreading the truth about the Bible and nakedness. We still have trouble understanding all the negative reactions to what the Bible really says about nakedness. The military one may put truth at too much of a disadvantage. For this article we will imagine different names for the backs of the soldiers. Most of what applies to our problem, also applies to truth in any other area. Naturism makes a good example of the problem.



As the first meme suggests, Satan is behind all the various methods of "killing" the truth. We need to take some credit for the problem. Satan is often blamed for things that we do not want to put any effort into correcting. "The Devil made me do it." is the statement that excuses us from any ability to change the outcome. Since **John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** We can be sure that none of the blame can be placed on God. Satan does influence us to act in ways that are dishonoring to God. Eve probably did not need Satan's encouragement to take the second bit of the forbidden fruit. It is not recorded that Satan encouraged Adam to eat it, but Satan was behind forcing Adam to choose between God and Eve for a conflict. We believe this is how Satan "tries to silence truth". He uses what is often called, "useful idiots" to do his work which makes it harder to see his hand behind the

deceit. We would not need to write this article if Satan always appeared as the man with the forked tail and the pointed ears in red. We would all recognize him instantly. Satan would be less effective if we studied the Bible more to learn how he deceives us.

Going to the second meme, notice how close the truth is to being naked and how well the solders are covered with clothing. You have to dress up lies to make them presentable. The truth can be naked and still be viewed as truth. It is true that some of the major media outlets have an aversion to telling the truth if it does not advance the causes they favor. That is not the topic of this article. We are going to imagine what the enemies of truth are called in the area of Bible truths especially about nakedness. In most cases the people involved do not know they are doing Satan's work. Eve probably told Adam how good the forbidden fruit tasted and how she discovered all its benefits.

The label for one of the solders has to be "Group Think". This is wide spread in groups. Look how uniform a group of young people look who are protesting society. It could be considered a form of brainwashing. Anyone who comes up with an idea that is outside the "group think" area will be forced to change his thinking, keep silent about his idea, or leave the group. As you probably already know, no matter how much Bible you use in a church that claims to get their doctrines from the Bible, they will force you to get in line with the textile doctrine, keep quiet about your "miss interpretation" of the Bible, or find another church to attend. The obvious solution is to not join the group. This works most of the time. It is rather difficult to change countries to escape a government that does not like how you think. It is also difficult to be part of a Christian fellowship and believe what the Bible teaches on controversial subjects like naturism. We also need to be careful that we are not restricting our thinking about naturism and give no consideration to people or thoughts that do not agree with our position.

The problem with "group think" is illustrated by a quote from Abraham Lincoln, *"You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the*

people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." The group members who have the least problem are the ones who are fooled all the time. If the truth were not important, this would be fine. There is a much better chance of finding and keeping the truth with a diversity of ideas and backgrounds in the group. This is the group that would only be fooled some of the time. Usually if these people point out the errors in the "group think", instead of considering if the new idea represents the truth, the person is silenced or removed from the group, and they go on in error. To silence the truth with "group think", Satan only needs to deceive all the people once and the group will preserve the deceit, leaving Satan time to work on another deceit.

A label for another soldier has to be "Dangerous Ideas". If the truth can be called a dangerous idea, we can call out all the defensive measures available to keep the truth from spreading. We are not aware of any verses that say that ideas are dangerous. We are instructed to control our thought life, because you think about it before you act. We have not found a list of dangerous thoughts in the Bible.

Pro 23:7; For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. This verse is often used for thought control sermons. If you read the verses before and after it and the last half of this verse you will notice it is talking about an evil man. He is still evil even if he seems to be nice at the moment. He is probably nice to trick you into some bad decision. The verses are saying to be cautious around evil men. What looks like a treat may not be much of a treat.

All of us have thought about doing some dangerous things to people who push us too far. Like running the guy who cuts you off in traffic off the road or slicing holes in his tires. Like beating someone half to death because they are winning the argument. These kinds of thoughts do not hurt the person they are directed against at all. Usually they do not know that they are upsetting your world. If you entertain the idea until

you are convinced it is the thing to do, the ACTION you take becomes dangerous, but the thought is not dangerous.

Labeling an idea as "dangerous" is much easier and safer than checking to see if it might be the truth. You do not need to do any research to label something as "dangerous". It makes you look knowledgeable, because others assume you already know enough to make a judgement on the danger. Labeling is safer, because you will need to change if the idea turns out to be the truth, but you only need to avoid dangerous ideas. No one can tell if you are indeed avoiding the idea. No need to change. If nakedness is not always a sin according to the Bible than we can't use the Bible to justify the "dangerous" label for people who attend family friendly clothing optional activities. If non sexual nakedness is not a sin, we will not be able to stop people engaged in the activity because it is a sin. How can we protect our children and ourselves from such lewdness? We became naturists ourselves because rather than assume what the truth was, we searched out the scriptures and when we found the truth in the Word, we were not afraid to deal with the truth. Labeling the idea as "dangerous" would have been much easier.

Another consideration about a dangerous idea...are we so weak in our understanding that we can not recognize and defend ourselves from dangerous ideas. We send our children to public school where they are exposed to many ideas that are contrary to the Bible, but we are afraid they will be lost if they learn that non sexual nakedness is not a sin. We are not sure that adults can handle the idea that being naked when the body does not need protection was normal in Bible times.

A label for another soldier should be "Mean Spirited". Many times, when people are confronted with the truth for the first time about some area of their life they do not want to change, they become "mean spirited" towards the messenger. This approach locks you into Satan's deceit. It is like taking the batteries out of the smoke detector because it is making too much noise and not checking for fire. The next irritation may be harder to deal with. If the messenger above is a friend with your

best interests at heart, you are very likely to have bigger problems to solve in the future, because you silenced his warning with your mean spirit. If you have a mean spirit about new ideas, some people will enjoy watching you fail instead of trying to warn you of the false belief you are following. Many times, the people who could benefit the most from viewing lots of naked bodies of all ages and both sexes in non sexual activities, will give the meanest reaction to the suggestion.

Examples of "mean spirited" behavior are found through out the Bible. Cain responded to Able's righteousness with murder. King Saul murdered the priests because they helped David with supplies and a sword even though they did not know that David and Saul were enemies. Jezebel threatened to put Elijah to death for showing her prophets were powerless. The Pharisees put Jesus to death for claiming to be the Son of God, which was the truth. Paul suffered many attacks from the Jews because he presented the truth about God. These Jews claimed to be doing God's will while they were serving Satan. Since nakedness was so common in Bible times, we have no examples involving nakedness.

The label for the fourth slider has to be "Pride". Most of our beliefs seem to be picked up with very little study. It sounded good. My pastor or teacher believes it is true. My friends believe things are this way. That is what the girl on TV says we should believe. This is okay if when a conflicting belief comes along you do not go into defensive mode because you could never be wrong. A one liner that I like: The trouble with people who think they know it all is they make it bad for those of us who do know it all. There was only one person in history that could use that line and not be a hypocrite, Jesus. I do not think He would use it though. There are many people who act like they know it all. In most cases you can't tell them the truth. Once Satan deceives them, they stay deceived. We all have a tendency to think we know everything already. Age helps to weaken the tendency with lots of examples where we were wrong.

A joke that illustrates pride or mean spirited is: A government inspector stopped at a farm to look for unlawful crops like marijuana. He said he wanted to check a certain field and the farmer said the agent could not go into that field. Instead of asking why, the agent took out his identification card and explained he could go anywhere he felt he needed to go. So, the farmer said ok. After a period of time the farmer saw the agent running as fast as he could across the field with the farmer's bull running close behind him. The farmer yelled, "Show him your card." It is experiences like the agent in this joke that cure us of some of our pride. Sometimes it seems that God enjoys watching us being chased across the field by the bull when we are too full of ourselves. Many times, He doesn't seem to do anything about it when we think others desperately need chased across the field by the bull. The "Pharisees" in our churches are a good example. They learn that you attended an activity with people of all ages and both sexes in a family friendly setting and the label you a sexual pervert or worse. They have no Bible, no experience, and false information to backup their position.

There are other labels for the soldiers such as, "Legalist", "Belief Worshiper", and "Closed Mind". These are covered in detail in other articles and since there are only four soldiers in the cartoon, we figured we'd stop at four also.

Sometimes it looks hopeless that the truth will be accepted in many areas including naturism, but we make a difference just like the person eating the elephant...one bite at a time...or in this case, one person at a time.

Stay faithful, trust God and keep spreading the Word!