

Sunday, April 28, 2019—Body Building: Corrupt Communication, Part 4 (Beguilement, Deceit, Lying, & False Witness)

Introduction

- Romans 14:19—the second segment of this series is devoted to looking at things that make for peace among the brethren and edify the body of Christ.
- Ephesians 4:29-31—evil speaking does not make for peace among the saints. Evil speaking takes away peace and doesn't edify.
- Ephesians 4:25—within the context of Ephesians 4 Paul deals with lying and truth telling. Lying is to be “put away” whereas speaking the truth is to be “put on.” The reason we should speak the truth is that “we are members one of another.”
- Why is truth so important to God?
 - *Reason 1: Truth Aligns Us with God*
 - *Reason 2: We are Redeemed to reflect God's Character*
 - *Reason 3: Truth-telling is a Matter of Submission to God's Will*
- Colossians 3:9—notice the one-anothering statement in verse 9. Our head, the Lord Jesus Christ does not lie to the other members of the body of Christ. Therefore, the members in particular of the body should not lie “one to another.”

Shading and Clouding the Truth: Types Lying

- The scriptures address types of evil speaking that would fall underneath the general category of “lying” or failing to tell the truth.
 - Beguilement
 - Deceit
 - Lying
 - False Witness

Beguilement

- Colossians 2:4, 18—the word beguile appears twice in the Scriptures. The Greek word translated beguile carries the following meanings:

- to reckon wrong, miscount
 - to cheat by false reckoning
 - to deceive by false reasoning
 - to deceive, delude, circumvent
- Meanwhile the word “beguiled” occurs 5 times in the scripture.
 - II Corinthians 11:3
 - Genesis 3:13
 - Genesis 29:13-25—Laban “beguiled” Jacob.
 - Beguilement is the sin of disseminating false conclusions. It is to delude or be deluded. Although often done innocently, it is devastating. Beguilement plants seeds of mistrust, doubt, and confusion. It does not make for peace among the brethren or edify the body of Christ.

Deceit

- We tend to equate the facts with truth, yet it’s amazing how “facts” can be arranged to distort the truth.
- Consider the following sentences as examples.
 - Woman without her man is a beast!
 - Woman—without her, man is a beast!
- The words didn’t change, but the “truth” of the statement changed considerably thanks to two simple punctuation marks.
- The tremendous power of deceit is demonstrated in Genesis 3:1-6. Through deceit, Satan not only gained control of Eve but also caused Adam to sin thereby imposing the curse of sin upon all of God’s creation.
- Genesis 3:1—notice that at this point Satan is dealing with factual information. But Satan’s presentation of the facts suggested that God was restrictive and stingy. To Eve, serving God was now perceived as enslavement. She concluded that God was keeping her from experience the completeness of life.
- Genesis 2:16-17—after reading what God actually said we ought to be struck by his generosity and love. Adam and Eve could eat from every tree in the garden except one—what a kind and generous creator.
- Satan presented truth in a way that deceived Eve into thinking wrongly about God. He twisted the facts to gain an advantage this is what the Scriptures define as deceit. Notice how deceit leads to beguilement.

- Genesis 3:13
- II Corinthians 11:3
- The word beguiled come from a different Greek word than one we looked at earlier. The one in II Corinthians is translated other places as deceive.
 - Romans 7:11
 - Romans 16:18
 - I Corinthians 3:18
 - II Thessalonians 2:3
- Deception has become a widely used technique for manipulation, self-advancement, and self-protection.
- Proverbs 20:17

Lying

- Both beguilement and deceit tamper with, twist, and distort the truth. Lying is the direct communication of untruth.
- Lying is the base of Satan's strategy. In Genesis 3, not only did Satan deceive Eve by playing with the facts He lied to her about God and His Word.
- Compare Genesis 3:4 with Genesis 2:17. Lying is the central part of Satan's strategy.
- Romans 1:25
- John 8:44—when we lie, we follow the Satan's course for this world rather than God.
- Untruth is still Satan's main method of operation today. He has pervaded our culture with the i.e. that there are no consequences to sin. Satan's lies are abundant:
 - Be as good as you can, and you'll go to heaven. Just be sincere.
 - Mankind is the result of a chance evolutionary process. There is not God.
 - Success can be measured by wealth and material possessions.
 - Freedom is found in doing anything that makes you happy.

- Colossians 3:9-10—lying is part of our old man brain wiring. Therefore, lying comes so easily; it is part of our flesh programming.
- Lying is a quick and easy way to gain advantage, protection, and promotion of personal interests. We lie to get people’s attention and have them think more highly of us. We lie to get rich or to get elected. We lie to protect our reputations. We lie to escape punishment.
- Ephesians 4:15—this does not mean we should blast people with the truth.
- Colossians 4:6

False Witness

- The expression false witness is found in 21 verses in the King James Bible.
- Exodus 20:16
- Exodus 23:1
- Deuteronomy 19:16-18
- False witness refers to those who bear false testimony against another person, often for some personal gain.
- I Kings 21:1-16
- Matthew 26:60-61
- False witness is so offensive because it strikes injury, often irreparable, to innocent people, their reputations, livelihoods, and families. It had the power to kill Naboth and to crucify Christ.

Conclusion

- Beguilement, deceit, lying, false witness are all methods of Satan to defeat God’s glory in us and through us. It is through these flesh patterns that he enlists us into his network of “nontruth” and gets us to participate in his lie program.
- Beguilement—disseminating information gleaned from false conclusions.
- Deceit—the willful manipulation and distortion of facts.
- Lying—the direct communication of untruth most often for selfish reasons.
- False Witness—willful false testimony spoken against someone else.