

INROADS OF DECEPTION

The Apostle Paul's admonitions to the Codependent Corinthians (see note at the bottom)

Satan employs everything to destroy the Churches of God. Especially now when his time is drawing short. One of the most successful means is to co-operate with the remaining carnality, the unrenewed, unsubmitted, uncommitted personality of the born again (even baptized with the Holy Spirit) Christian.

This type of strategy is well illustrated in the Corinthian Church. The Apostle Paul admonishes the Corinthians to correct their carnal conduct 'test Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his DEVICES.' (2 Cor. 2:11) Here are some of these 'devices' or 'whiles', (methodeias-See Eph. 6:11) as seen in the Corinthian Church.

1. TO WEAKEN THROUGH DIVISION.

1 Cor. 1: 10,11-"appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there be no divisions among you and you may be perfectly united in mind and in thought. My brothers . . . that there are quarrels among you.

There is a Scriptural way of adjusting differences among *believers so as to avoid destructive division.*

Let us judge our motives, actions, and the way we speak to problems. Make sure that we are not supporting a SATANIC DEVICE.

2. TO CORRUPT THROUGH LUST.

1 Cor. 5:1 -"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you,"

Unclean morel practices wreck the individual and will ill effect the Church. Don't be impressed and taken in by the modern attitudes to morality and so excuse sin because it is 'generally accepted.' See it for what it is.

3. TO PROMOTE INDIFFERENCE TO DISCIPLINE.

1 Cor. 5: 2 -"And you are proud.' Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief, and put out of your fellowship the man who did this??"

The Corinthian Church had been undisturbed by, and been inactive in proper response to the immoral conduct of some its members. An attitude of indifference to these things might well result in the entire Church reaping the judgment of God.

To fail to be concerned, might not be 'minding our business' as much as promoting a satanic plot to destroy the Church. The counsel of Balsam almost destroyed the people of Israel had it not been for some righteous men.

4. TO CONFUSE BY ENCOURAGING WORD-DEFYING EXCESSES.

1 Cor. 14: 26, 33, - '...Let all things be done unto EDIFYING. For God is not the author of CONFUSION (disorder), but of peace, ... "

God's intention is always directed to the building of men's structures, according to the Word of God, in the lives of the believers. Any additional contributions will cause confusion.

5. TO HARDEN IN UNFORGIVENESS.

2 Cor. 2: 7, 11 - 'Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort (encourage). LEST SATAN SHOULD GET AN ADVANTAGE OVER US, for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Be constantly aware that Satan attempts to justify your old nature, thereby blaming others, and excusing you from humbling yourself.

6. TO CORRUPT THROUGH MIXED FELLOWSHIP.

2 Cor. 6: 14-16- 'Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. What has a believer in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols.'

The Old Testament Israel was nearly destroyed by Bales.. a advice of letting ungodly women enter the camp. Causing God's wrath to come upon his own people.

7. OPPOSITION TO THE KNOWLEDGE AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

2 Cor. 10: 10:5 - 'We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.'

Men's natural (carnal) inventiveness and pride lends itself by its very disposition to the devices and schemes of the enemy. Only subjected to the Holy Spirit we can resist and overthrow such attacks.

8. TO DECEIVE THROUGH FALSE PROPHETS.

2 Cor. 11: 13- 15 "For such men are false prophets, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.... if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. "

Discerning false prophets and teachers is not an easy task. In these cases we must pay particular attention which subjects are emphasized, and in what attitude they are presented. Under-emphasis or even over-emphasis to the point of legalism should you curious where the person comes from, if the glory goes to him/herself and not Christ, be warned.

9. TO SOW DISAGREEMENTS THROUGH THE WORKS OF THE FLESH.

2 Cor. 12: 20 - 21 - Summing up of the Works of the flesh)

The flesh is at all times contrary to the Spirit, and are the channel through which demons enter the Body of Christ, and do their destructive work, separating the believers from God.

10. Solution: What ever is corrupt in the Church is beyond recovery the only solution Paul preaches to the Corinthian Church is "a New Man in Christ", 2 Cor. 5:17- "Therefore if any man [*be*] in Christ, [*he is*] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Recognizing and confirming through faith the New Man in Christ, we are submitted to the Lordship of Christ. (mentioned in Chapters 1-3, etc.). We are to be in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Cor 1:9; Gal. 2:20 and the cross of Christ to be the center of our lives, 1 Cor. 1:18; Gal. 6:14, that means that our thinking and emotions and will is submitted to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross in the power of the resurrection because Christ is risen and reigning.

The Apostle Paul's admonitions to the Codependent Corinthians to see their victory over sin through the new man in Christ (They make the same mistake because of their slave mentality as the Israelites after they left Egypt and feared and failed to go into the promised land)