

The Cloak Of Maliciousness

1 Peter 2.13-16

- 1. One of the tools that the devil has is to cause distrust in the realm of spiritual things**
 - a. this has always been a problem
 - b. numerous examples of those in the scriptures who took advantage of others
 - c. Swigart, Baker, many Catholic priests and others - more numerous than we can count

- 2. Examples of those in the scriptures**
 - a. Personal gain**
 1. **1 Sam 8.1-3** - the sons of Samuel took bribes and perverted judgment
 2. **2 Kings 5.20** - Elisha's servant and Naaman - clothing after Elisha refused
 3. **Titus 1.10-11** - vain talkers whose mouths must be stopped
 4. **Matt 23.14** - devour widows houses
 - b. Sexual advantage**
 1. **1 Sam 2.22** - Eli's sons lay with the women at the door of the tabernacle
 1. **2 Pet 2.14-15** - having eyes full of adultery
 2. **2 Tim 3.5-7** - creep into houses
 3. **Gal 5.13** - use not liberty as an occasion to the flesh
 - c. Competitive spirit**
 1. **Phil 1.14-17** - some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife
 2. **2 Pet 2.18-19** - they themselves are the servants of corruption
 3. **2 Tim 4.3** - shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears
 4. **2 Pet 2.2** - by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of

- 3. Guards against this**
 - a. Individual action**
 1. **James 1.25** - whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty
 2. **1 Pet 2.12-13** - submit yourselves to every ordinance of man
 3. **1 Tim 5.22** - lay hands on no man suddenly
 4. **1 Cor 15.33** - evil communications corrupt good manners
 5. **1 Tim 4.16** - take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine
 - b. Collective action**
 1. **1 Tim 3.15** - the pillar and ground of the truth
 2. **2 John 10** - if there come any unto you and have not this doctrine

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2. Examples of those in the scriptures

Personal gain

1 Sam 8.1-3 - And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2: Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beer-sheba. 3: And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

2 Kings 5.20 - But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

Titus 1.10-11 - For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Matt 23.14 - Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Sexual advantage

1 Sam 2.22 - Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

2 Pet 2.14-15 - Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: 15: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2 Tim 3.5-7 - Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6: For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7: Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Gal 5.13 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

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Competitive spirit

Phil 1.14-17 - And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. 15: Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

2 Pet 2.18-19 - For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19: While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

2 Tim 4.3 - 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;

2 Pet 2.2 - And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3. Guards against this

Individual action

James 1.25 - But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

1 Pet 2.12-13 - Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. 13: Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

1 Tim 5.22 - Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

1 Cor 15.33 - Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1 Tim 4.16 - Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Collective action

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1 Tim 3.15 - But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

2 John 10 - If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

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