

False Prophets Worship Another God.

By David Cox

He wants to steal our worship and obedience from the true God to any other god.

The false prophet redefines God in some other way than what the Bible defines Him. He makes God into something that He is not. While this is hard to see many times, the teaching and preaching and his own example do not parallel what God has revealed to us about Himself, and the false prophet is nothing like the image of Jesus Christ that the New Testament portrays him to be.

A Unilateral One-True-God Worship

Deuteronomy 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, Deuteronomy 13:2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Deuteronomy 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: **for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**

Deuteronomy 13:4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

To really understand what a false prophet is and what is the danger he represents to the child of God, we need to understand that we are in a spiritual war with Satan over our souls. That war is fought over who controls us (God or Satan, and we do not control our own destiny), who administers our time, resources, energies, loyalties, affections, etc.

What sets our priorities in life, the use of our resources like money, but also our energies, our time, our attention, our constant "preoccupation" is really our God.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Satan wants control over us. He uses people who yield their lives to Satan and his purposes, and these are his false prophets. They do not succeed if they say they are Satan's servants, so they masquerade as God's servants, wolves in sheep's clothing.

But their entire goal is to break the loyalty and service that the child of God has to the only true God of the Bible. What this loyalty and service to God is really just our worship of God. God is our Master and Lord.

The danger of the False Prophet

The real danger of the false prophet is in convincing us to believe and practice differently than what God wants us to do, what God wants us to be spiritually, morally. He convinces us through arguments, logic that is not logical, and reasons that are not reasonable nor true. Unfortunately, many people fall for these lies, these non-truths. Satan is the false of lies.

With time, and in eternity this becomes extremely clear when somebody is in hell or in heaven but have few rewards in heaven because they ruined their lives because of they fell for false prophet's lies, but in time, truth will be declared and the lies will be revealed for what they are. They are attacks, instruments that Satan has invented and used, in which Satan has warred against God and His people to destroy God, and Satan will lose. But we do not want to arrive in heaven without the rewards of a good life lived in service and worship of God. Worse is to not make heaven at all, and be so twisted in the lies of Satan that you end up in hell.

But the danger of a false prophet is that he will steal what could be yours as an obedient child of God if you obey God, if you fall for his lies, and enter under his ministry.

Protection from the False Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that **shall speak in the name of other gods**, even that prophet shall die.

God commanded the Israelites not to worship any other God except Jehovah the only true God. There is a point here that people can discern when they have left worshipping the true God for some other things, person, etc. that presents itself as God. The key is in how that person spends his time, energy, resources, etc. on his "god." When other things take priority over a person's relationship with the true God, then they are worshipping a false god. God got mad at Israel for honoring Him with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him.

What we should do to worship God. It would seem simple, but it is not. Satan twists and turns truth into knots if he can get away with it. It would seem obvious to any true Christian that God's plan is one woman and one man committing to each other in matrimony for the rest of their natural lives. But the false prophet steals that precious commitment from them with harlots, infidelity. This theme or motive is used often in Scriptures as what erring people, the people who claim to be God's people, did against God. **They were unfaithful, and they spent their time, affections, money, energy on someone or something that did not deserve that devotion.**

That is exactly what a false prophet does, the danger he presents to the Christian. What happens when a happily married couple has one of the two act with infidelity to that marriage? The relationship between the two is on rocky ground for a while, and sometimes forever after. The unfaithful party has to "own" their own actions, and there is no other action that will be accepted except confession, repentance, and abandonment of that infidelity.

With our relationship with God, God is pure, always faithful, and so we are the offending part. God insists on our confession, repentance, and abandonment of that infidelity. But the false prophet is that

"other woman" that flirts with us in romance, offering us free love, when we have a wife that we should be loyal to.

Understanding Marriage

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

If God uses the human institution of marriage to teach us how we should be loyal to God, then maybe a lot of problems start with our lack of understanding of what marriage is. Marriage is not just a contract with a telephone company, you give them something and they give you something and when either of the two no longer like that arrangement, when they find a better arrangement, you break the contract between you and enter a new contract.

But marriage is a spiritual activity. It is a soul activity, and this implies commitment, dedication and devotion. In other words, the contract cannot be broken without being a failure of you as a person. Your promise of love and devotion to your mate until death do us part is what you are. When you break that promise, your moral worth is showing through for what you really are. And there is always a rule that people do not like what happens in a divorce. A divorce is a failure of the persons involved. They are not willing to sacrifice of themselves, of what they want, what they are happy and content with, in that relationship. It is a unilateral failure.

Divorce is not a failure that can be heaped on one partner only, it is a failure of the union of two people. It is a spiritual failure. But it happens, and so often, either or both of the people are in a sense happy with the divorce, because they deem it better to separate than to remain together fighting.

With our relationship with God, we can in no way *"be better off"* separating ourselves from God. God is the only source of blessing, happiness, joy, peace, and eternal well-being. Satan only brings hurt, destruction, chaos, and death.

Our Loyalty has to be to the True God

Psalms 78:8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

Proverbs 21:21 He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

Proverbs 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

2 Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

This loyalty to God is actually our faith. That is what God is pleased with. That is what saves us. This concept of faith is confidence, consistency in thoughts and actions that align with that relationship we have with God. We believe in the goodness of God, and that ultimately is what we hope for, God's goodness to us personally, individually. That generates and maintains our loyalty and obedience.

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

So it is very logical that a person in that committed relationship with God will be loyal to God, and naturally do things that please God, that are representations of God's will. We are talking about thinking, but also about always our beliefs, what we believe and confide in as true, will dictate our conduct. Right doctrine (biblical doctrine) causes righteousness conduct.

The False Prophet does not have a Faithful Relationship with God

We must be very careful with those who presume to "*help us*," because that is exactly the point where Satan inserts his false prophet to ruin our relationship with God. How many wives that have husbands that are businessmen get a new pretty secretary "*to help him*" that tries to steal his romantic affections from his duly married wife? In the name of some benefit, or help, a person opens himself to great moral and personal disaster.

So how do you discern between a true help and a deceptive helper? In the case of a false prophet, or any minister of the gospel we allow "*to help us through his ministry*", that includes the church we participate in, we have to look at the true Christianity, the spiritual relationship of the leader(s) with God.

Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

In order to not be spiritually harmed by Satan, the Christian needs to understand how to discern those who would do them spiritual harm. While we can talk very clearly about the danger from a false prophet, we need to widen our awareness to also be wary "*good men of God*" in any context, because even a good prophet (preacher) of God can make mistakes, sin, or otherwise cause us spiritual harm. That should not happen really, but it does.

But Hebrews 13:7 makes the point that our constant reflection and meditation on those who minister to us, and the point is, how are their relationships with God? How do they "*turn out*", what does their "*end of their conversation*" or what is the end results of their life's conduct look like?

We compare this with Matthew 7:15-20, by their fruits shall ye know them. So our conclusion needs to be that we have to insist upon every minister that would help us spiritually, that we allow to influence us, to affect us by listening to their teachings, by following their exhortations, by believing their presentations, every one of these individuals absolutely has to conform to the image of Christ. We must insist on this as Christians. To do otherwise is to open ourselves to spiritual harm. All good men of God

will have a good testimony, and seeing Christlikeness in them is a given. They are examples to the flock of God.

1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 1 Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 1 Peter 5:3 **Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.** 1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

We must connect the dots here in what Peter says. There are dynamic opposites in ministers, those who are Christlike, in whom we can identify easily Christ acting through them, and those that want to lord over the believer, these are the false prophets we have to protect ourselves against.

Every minister is an under shepherd under the Chief Shepherd, the Good Pastor, Jesus Christ. The only people that will do that good work that Jesus wants of us are going to imitate Jesus in their character, speech, and conduct, their works.

1Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Paul gave himself as an example of this very thing, and we begin to see this pattern in the whole Bible. Jesus' exhortation and warning about false prophets in Matthew 7 uses the image of a tree will only produce fruit that is of the same character as what the tree is. We do not validate a false prophet as "*good*" because he does some "*good thing*." But so many people fall for this trap. They want money, he gives them money or something representative of money like free food, candy, etc., and they immediately associate that minister as being good, even though he is a false prophet.

What is good is not necessarily economic benefits. James speaks to the Christians that have the ability to do good, seeing the economic needs of somebody, to respond. There is nothing wrong with helping needy people. But we need to be wiser than to conclude the "goodness" of a minister because they gift something. Businessmen will often give gifts and invite young ladies for a free meal and alcoholic drinks before they force them into having sex with them. So this needs to be understood by us. Satan works that way very frequently.

How to Defeat the Plans of a False Prophet

What the false prophet wants is control of your life. This control is a spiritual thing. It is a stealing of the control that God only should have. Not even good ministers should have this control. We should listen and obey our good ministers (Hebrews 13:7), but always comparing what they are saying, what they are doing, what they are teaching, what they are exhorting us to do with Christ. That is the key to defeating Satan's attack. We do not allow ourselves to sleep, but we are vigilant against all attacks of Satan.

1 Thessalonians 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 1 Thessalonians 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 1 Thessalonians 5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us, who are of the

day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

Our worship of God, of Jesus our Savior is a detailed study of His character and conduct, in which we understand God's moral character, and we imitate that same moral character in our lives,

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

As a child imitates his parents, so should we imitate God. The battle is in what we refuse and what we allow. What we follow and what we reject. This is the problem that most Christians have with false prophets. The grand majority of Christians don't care about studying the teachings on false prophets. That is usually because they have not had serious life altering problems with one. When they do, they label everybody in a suit as a false prophet and "give up on church" altogether.

What they great spiritual harm really is, is the fact that they are not following Christ and his teachings, especially Matthew 7's warning against ministers who do not act like Christ, who are not Christlike. That little disobedience is very hurtful when the false prophet steals money, or causes a woman who is not his wife to fall sexually to his desires. Then people become alert, but too late.