



Antagonistic Forces Working Against Us

Matthew 13:24-30

- ***** Education system ...
- Television, music, and other sources of entertainment...
- The world in general . . .
- Religion!!... (Even forces within the church)



- ★ The principle of reaping what we sow Gal. 6:7-9
- ♣ Applied to the influence we have on others Mat 5:13-16; Rom 2:17-24

Romans 2:17-24 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, ¹⁸ and know *His* will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, ¹⁹ and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

Romans 2:17-24 (NKJV)

²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

Romans 2:17-24 (NKJV)

²² You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? ²⁴ For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written.

Matthew 18:6-14 (NKJV)

⁶ "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

Matthew 18:6-14 (NKJV)

⁸ If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you.

Matthew 18:6-14 (NKJV)

It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire. ¹⁰ "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ¹¹ For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.



- Could WE be guilty of doing things, (or not doing things) that lead to another's unbelief?
- ♦ What are some things we could do that would cause unbelief to be planted in the hearts of others?

Compromising With Error



- Compromise in areas of liberty & and opinion – YES – (Rom 14)
- → Becoming more like the world will NEVER be the impetus for one to leave the world!!!
- ◆ By compromising on things that make us different from the world we destroy ourselves Prov. 6:27; 1 Sam. 8:5-7; Mat 5:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; James 4:4

Compromising With Error



- Does not purify that which is polluted but defiles that which is pure 1 Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9
- → If we Compromise on morality; doctrine; worship; or practice – we may gain the world's approval but will lose God's! – Gal. 1:10
- Despises God's authority & negates our plea (the importance & value of truth) - Col 3:17; Prov 23:23;

Internal Strife / Division



- Dwelling together in unity is Good & Pleasant – Ps 133:1;
- → Jesus Prayed for Unity that the world may believe John 17:20,21
- Unity pleasing to the Lord is arrived at by adherence to THE TRUTH John 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Phili 1:27; Eph 4:1-6;

Internal Strife / Division



- Strife & division can destroy faith and can turn people away from the truth into hopeless despair.
 - Doctrinal differences -
 - Business meeting or classroom brawls...
 - Constant criticism of other members...
 - Constant complaining . . .

Hypocrisy and Deceit



- One's hypocrisy will never justify another's failure to believe and obey God – 2 Cor. 10:12; Mat 23:3
- → However hypocrisy can and does turn people away from the truth – Mat 23:13; Rom 2:24
- → The practice of 'do as I say, not as I
 do' will never positively effect those
 in the world and will cost you your
 soul! Mat. 23; Titus 1:16

Hypocrisy and Deceit



- If you are a hypocrite how can you help another's faith grow?
 - Your children?
 - Your family?
 - Your fellow worker?
 - Your neighbor?
 - Your friends?
 - Those you may converse with on a regular basis?

Inability To Give An Answer



- The main reason we should give diligence to studying our Bibles is that we may increase our own faith, (Acts 17:11,12) but another reason is that we may be able to teach others 2 Tim 2:2
- What effect does our silence have on those who know we are members of the church of Christ
 but we never talk about it?

Inability To Give An Answer



- ♦ When those in the world or in denominationalism ask basic questions of us – and we are consistently unwilling or unable to answer - what effect does that have on our ability to lead them to the truth? (1 Pet 3:15)
- Could our silence and ignorance cause others, (including our children), to disrespect the truth?

Apathy Towards The Truth



Seen in our:

- Failure to obey it -
- Failure to live it –
- Failure to teach it -
- Formalistic and lifeless worship -
- Unwillingness to defend it –or support those who do
- How we raise our children -

Apathy Towards The Truth



Our REAL priorities and values are seen by

- Actions and words regarding worship and service to God -
- What we talk about what excites us what we enjoy
- Those close to us (we can't fool our children, our spouses, etc. – how could our apathy effect their faith?)

If We Sow The Seeds Of Unbelief Compromising With Error Internal Strife / Division **Hypocrisy and Deceit Inability To Give An Answer Apathy Towards The Truth** WE WILL REAP INFIDELITY





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12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?

Matthew 18:6-14 (NKJV)

¹³ And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ¹⁴ Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.