



If You Play With
EVIL!

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Practical Christian Life

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Do Not Experiment With Evil!

Key: Evil is the most destructive force in the world. It is also the most seductive. As a result, most people see only the beauty of evil and it eventually traps them to lead them into its hypnotic clutches.

One way in which many have destroyed their inner lives is via engagement with evil. They did not want to get 'involved'. Rather, it was only an innocent 'engagement' or 'dialog' for checking, testing, or even to 'convert' evil. But that is not the way the world works. Look at what happened to Eve when Satan engaged her in a conversation and she happily entered into that dialogue, trying to educate him about exactly what God had ordered.

Human history, as recorded in the Bible, makes it clear that you should always FLEE evil instead of reasoning with it for any reason whatsoever. Look at Joseph, who fled instead of reasoning with his seducer. In Proverbs 2 we read:

Proverbs 2: 10 for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; 11 discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, 12 delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, 13 who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness.

The stress in Scripture is on 'deliverance' and not on engagement. This principle is illustrated in the Scripture as we read further and reach verse 16, where we read:

So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, Proverbs 2:16

Here we should make a particular note that wisdom protects not only from her, but also from her smooth words. Evil always tries to engage people in conversation and interaction of some kind. This opens up a way for it to eventually trap people. We have the example of Eve, Samson, David, and Balaam. Each one was confronted by evil and, instead of fleeing it, they engaged with it -- through reasoning, fantasy, and denial. The result was predictable. They were trapped. They could not 'convert' evil into good. Rather, evil convinced them to join its side. A million Christians fall the same way each day. Instead of fleeing evil, they engage it in conversation or reasoning. Evil always wins.

We should always remember that evil never approaches us as a dark, fearsome, ferocious, or loathsome character. Rather, it always presents itself as a pleasant, pleasing angel of light that is interested in a one-on-one rational discussion with us. It often approaches us as an inquirer, a seeker of knowledge, help, guidance, or even counseling. It even projects itself as a person deeply into rational discourses for the purpose of 'learning' or 'discovering' truth. However, the purpose of all these masks is to 'open' you up to 'conversation' or an involvement with evil.

Once a person gets into any kind of conversation or flirtation with evil, it helps evil to use highly-camouflaged leading questions and leading statements to plant seeds of doubt, fear, and other emotions that can easily disturb the stability and firmness of our mental/spiritual foundations. This is hinted at in many passages in the Scripture that exhort believers to flee from various things such as the strange woman, youthful lusts, etc.

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 1 Corinthians 6:18

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 1 Corinthians 10:14

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22

For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house. Proverbs 5:3, 8

While evil always represents itself as something or someone who is interested in inquiry or rational discourse, its ultimate aim is 'sabotage'. The outer cover as an inquirer or seeker is only a camouflage meant to deceive others and help it to succeed in guerilla warfare. Conventional warfare has some definite rules of engagement, but these are not acceptable to evil and that is why it indulges in guerilla warfare which has no rules at all. In this battle, evil has only one rule of engagement - deceive and kill.

For thousands of years, smaller kingdoms have used guerilla tactics to defeat large and powerful armies, with the help of deceit and deception. These tactics become much more deceitful when they are used by Satan and his agents in the spiritual world. Generally, their tactics involve propaganda and mind-manipulation techniques. Using these, they take control of human minds. The ultimate aim of such mind-control is to regulate and manipulative their spiritual life. All what is said in this chapter should be seen from this perspective.

Remember, evil is to be fled from and not to be engaged with in any kind of dialog. Such dialog has destroyed many Christians. Such interaction has slowly and steadily eroded the personal lives of so many Christians that the whole world is full of fallen Christian heroes. We therefore need to train our children always to keep these things in mind. We do this by repeatedly warning them, by creating boundaries in their minds, and also by instilling

hatred and revulsion in their minds towards all kind of evil and unwholesome things.

We all teach and warn our children to keep away from touching exposed electrical wires, from playing with fire, and from consuming poison. We warn them of many other potential dangers that lurk everywhere to destroy unwary victims. We do not encourage them to experiment with, or dabble in, these things. We never advise them to experiment with these things for the purpose of learning how dangerous they are. We never make light of the dangers of dabbling in these things.

We all know that experimenting or dabbling in any of the above matters are dangerous activities, and also that they can leave the victims permanently scarred, handicapped, disabled, disfigured, or in uncontrollable pain. We all consider the example of those who became victims of these dangerous things, knowingly or unknowingly, as sufficient warning for others so as to avoid such dangers and not play with these things. The same ought to be our attitude towards involvement or experimentation of any kind with evil.

Unfortunately, the seductive power of evil, its promise of pleasure, power, attainment, and comfort is so overwhelming that many who enter into a dialog with it soon end up becoming the advocates of evil. Look at the way Eve fell into the trap, ate the fruit, and became an advocate by 'giving' the fruit to her husband. These 'Christians' often advise other Christians that a little indulgence in evil is essential to recognize what 'evil'

really is, and also to discern whether it is really harmful. They can often be seen advocating that Christians, particularly the younger ones, should dabble a little bit in pornography, drinking, physical intimacy with the opposite sex, and experiment with other behaviors that the Christian community, or Scripture, label as sinful, undesirable, or questionable. We can safely assume that everyone who advocates indulgence with evil has already fallen into it. I have not found any exception to the above observation.

A few years ago, I delivered a series of messages on the Bible, Science, Evolution, and Apologetics in Christian churches in the Arabian Gulf. These were very much liked by everyone. However, the elders of one of the churches asked me specifically to speak on two topics: indulgence in things considered evil, and pornography. I delivered three messages on these topics and received great appreciation and praise from people. Many believers, young and old, came to me privately and told of how they were trapped, how they had been struggling, and how God used my message to liberate them through the Scriptures that I presented to them. What surprised me, however, was one believer who became very hostile to me.

Byron took me aside and gave me a piece of his mind. He said I was being self-righteous and legalistic by asking believers not to indulge in these things. He told me that my word was definitely not sufficient for anybody to accept something as evil. When I pointed to the

Scriptures that I had quoted, he said that even the devil quotes the Scripture and that it does not mean absolutely anything. He was becoming agitated and angry, and I felt he might even become violent with me. Suddenly, some believers spotted him and his agitated manner, and rushed to us to announce that it was already late for me to leave for a dinner hosted in my honor.

Three people accompanied me in the car, which was almost sound-proof, and explained to me that Byron had been openly advocating for 'indulgence' for some time, and that he was on the verge of being disciplined by the church. They had delayed discipline because they wanted to accumulate all available evidence and, providentially, several people had the same day testified to the elders that Byron had been indulging in alcoholism, pornography, and extra-marital friendship.

They said that Byron was able to persuade visiting teachers not to touch these subjects, and that I was the first one to speak - and also that in a powerful manner to convince the church and convict many offenders. Byron now felt that he had to battle single-handedly in favor of sin and evil, and that was the reason for his violent behavior towards me. They said that since Byron's advocacy of sin had been in public for many months, the church would discipline him in public.

While I have nothing to say against public discipline of people who indulge openly in sinful behavior, I am always in favor of giving a second chance to the offender,

AFTER he is confronted with evidence. Church leaders sought my presence as a third party, so as to be able to play the role of a compassionate intermediary, and I agreed. Providentially, within a few minutes, I received a confidential call from Linda, his wife. Without knowing that the church leaders had already discussed the matter with me, she said she felt that I might be able to help her husband, who was into all kinds of secret vices and sins. She said she was ready to stand by him and help him recover if her husband was willing to repent. This was an encouraging sign.

The church leaders confronted Byron the next day, in my presence. He rejected all allegations and tried to project himself as a spokesman for logical thinking. I then spoke to him and informed him that the church leaders had sufficient evidence at hand, but that they did not want to embarrass him by going that far. I suggested that the path of repentance was available to him, if he were willing to repent at that stage of the matters. He was shocked into silence, and also into realization that there was no escape. He also realized that my offer, on behalf of the church leadership, was the best way out of his sinful life without unnecessary embarrassment. I then tactfully asked whether his wife was aware of his sinful life and, with great pain in his voice, he admitted that she was indeed aware of these things.

As suggested by me, the same evening he came along with his wife for a private meeting with me. In our extended conversation, it became obvious that, at a

certain point of time, his professional life became so busy that he had no time for his personal inner life. Devotions were the first casualty. One thing led to another, and he was here with a messed up personal life. He made a commitment to go back and lay the foundations once again. His wife agreed to be a strong support. We departed happily and, today, as I write this book, I am happy to tell you that he is a happy man and wants his story told to others so that they might not fall into the same trap.

Our personal inner life is not seen by anyone. It is controlled by what goes on inside us. Thus, it is very easy for our personal life to fall prey to external demands, emotions, lust, and seduction. When it comes to numbers, those who fall are always more numerous than those who do not. Thus, it is all the more necessary for each one of us to prevent our personal life from collapsing. Only I can do it for my life, and only YOU can do it for your life. Nobody can force anyone to organize his/her inner life.

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Every reform movement comes to slumber in a century or less. There are practically no exceptions in the last two millinnia of church history. Thus each generation needs Ezras and Nehemiahs to rebuild the foundations that were once laid down but which are in ruins now! The only solution is to go back to the Bible and its fundamentals.

The authors stand unashamedly and without wavering on the following fundamental principles: Bible Alone (Sola Scriptura), Faith Alone (Sola Fide), Grace Alone (Sola Gratia), Christ Alone (Solus Christus). With this in mind we bring to you a set of writers who stand strong on these principles.

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