

A Biblical Perspective On Narcissism

LBC
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

Narcissism On The Increase?

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Getting Personal

THERE'S ANOTHER WAY



An Introduction & Framework

Demonstrate the Bible Speaks To Everything

Describe - Traits & Tactics

Proscribe – Possible Solutions

For Them

For Us

Two Sessions

Who They Are

- Biblical vs Secular
- The Secular Definition
- The Biblical Perspective
- Biblical Traits & Tactics
- Biblical Case studies

How To Deal With Them

- Three Questions
 - Are they Christians?
 - Do they get away with it?
 - Can they change?
- Four Possible Causes
- A Path To Genuine Change
- Coping With Narcissists
- From Why, To Hope, To Love

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON NARCISSISM

Part 1

Quick Survey

#1 – How many know the secular definition of narcissism?

#2 – How many personally know someone who is narcissistic?

#3 – How many recognize public figures who are narcissists?

Keep in mind the 1 or 2 people you know as we go through this – it will help make it less academic, and more real-life

Where People Turn For Help

- Professional psychologists or psychiatrists
- The pop-psychology world of books, blogs, self-help forums, etc.
- Christian psychologists
- Pastors
- Biblical counselors
- A shoulder to cry on (i.e. – a caring friend)

Secular History

1900's

1911 - Austrian psychoanalyst Otto Rank published one of the earliest descriptions of narcissism, 1914 - Sigmund Freud published a paper titled, On Narcissism: An Introduction.

1950's

Publication of the first Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), character disorders became formally recognized.

1960's

1967 - The term "narcissistic personality structure" was introduced by Otto Kernberg, 1968 – term "narcissistic personality disorder" proposed by Heinz Kohut

1980

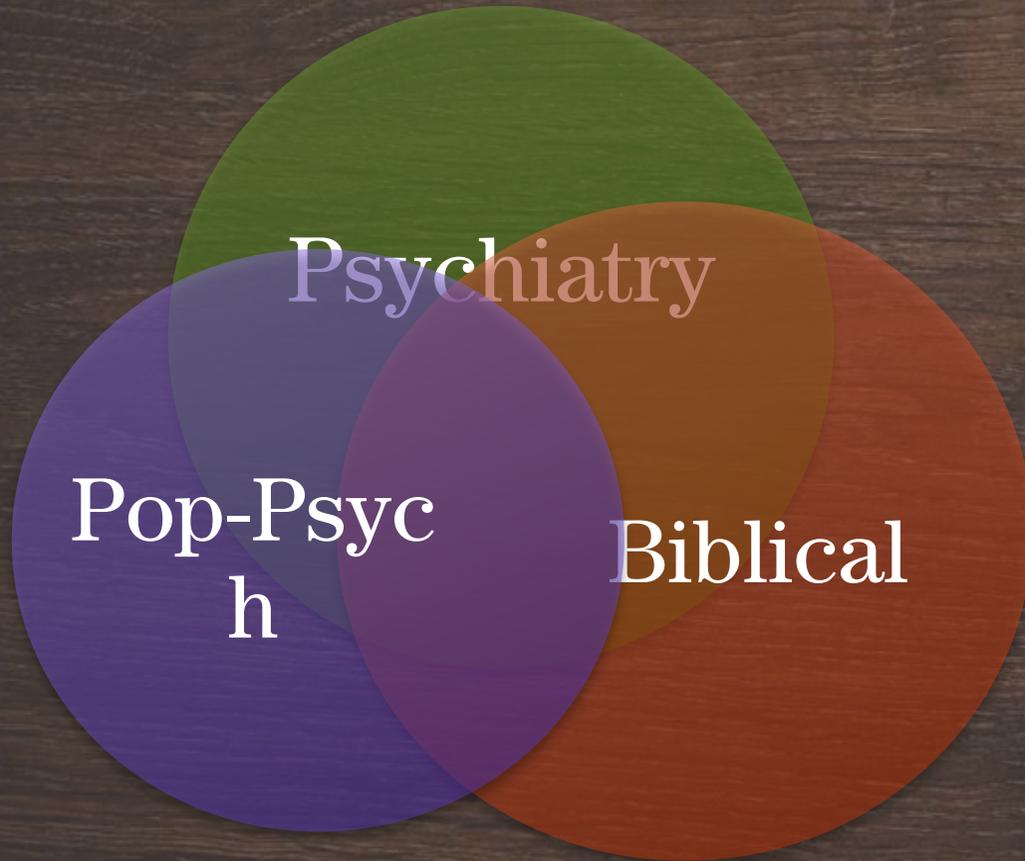
1980 – in DSM III (APA, 1980) personality disorders recognized as a distinct and separate category of disorders in their own right

Every profession tends to build their walled city

DSM-V Definition

- A grandiose sense of **self-importance**
- A preoccupation with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love
- **A belief that he or she is special** and unique and can only be understood by, or should associate with, other special or high-status people or institutions
- **A need for excessive admiration**
- **A sense of entitlement**
- **Interpersonally exploitive behavior**
- A lack of empathy
- **Envy of others** or a belief that others are envious of him or her
- **A demonstration of arrogant and haughty behaviors or attitudes**

Secular vs. Biblical



- N's are nothing new
- Different terms – same people
- God knows these people
- Overlapping observations
- NOT a 1:1 overlap, BUT
- Bible is actually more precise than the fuzzy secular definitions

God Knows

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:16-17

“For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6

“then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, **for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,**” I Kings 8:39
(Solomon’s prayer at the Temple dedication)

Different Terms, Same Thing

Commonly
Observed
Narcissistic
Traits

Common
English

Psychiatry
Psychology

Bible

Megalomania

Delusions of grandeur

Superiority complex

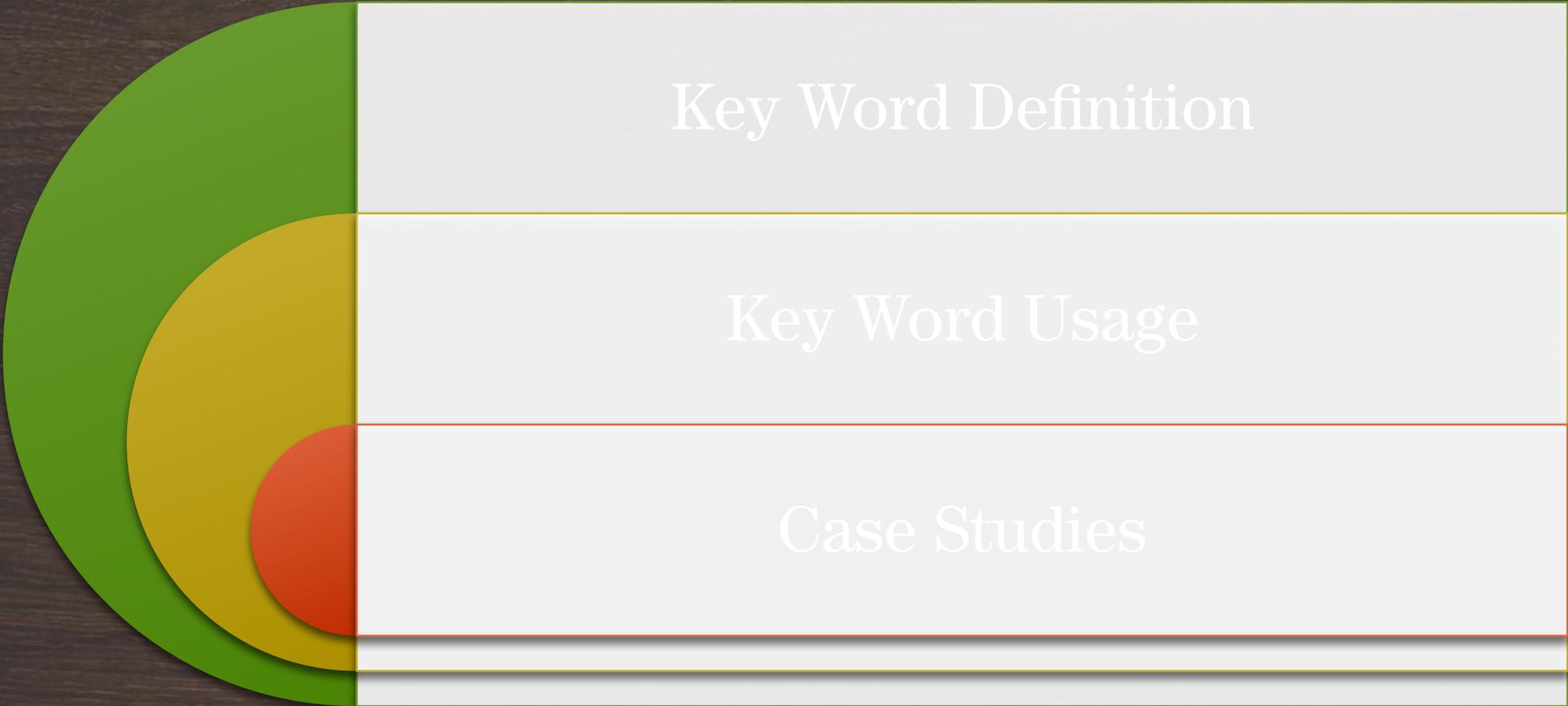
Narcissism

Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Projection

????

Methodology To Paint The Biblical Picture

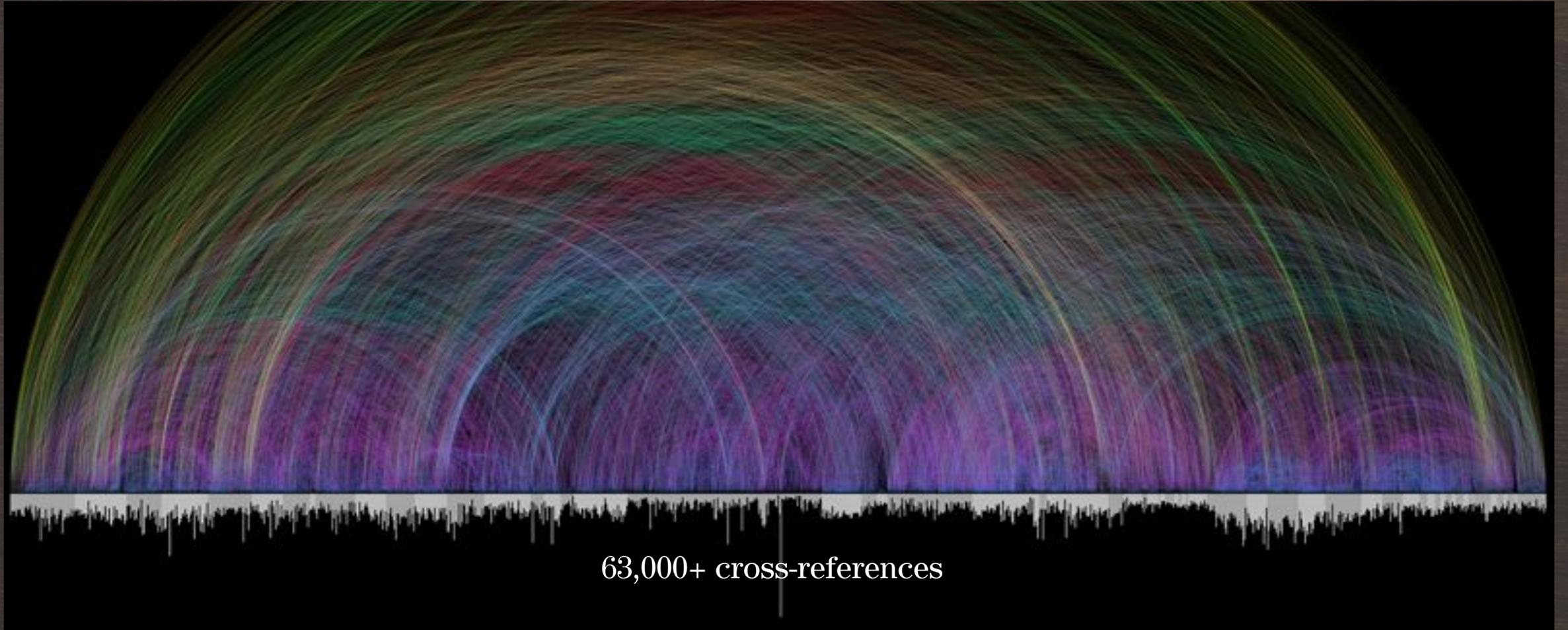


Key Word Definition

Key Word Usage

Case Studies

Many Authors, Many Centuries, One Interwoven Message



Methodology To Paint The Biblical Picture

Key Word Definition

- Insolent pride
- Haughty
- Scoffer

Key Word Usage

- Proverbs
- Psalms
- Isaiah

Case Studies

- Satan
- Diotrephes
- Pharisees
- Etc

Same Person, Different Names

“Proud,” “Haughty,” “Scoffer,” are his names, who acts with insolent pride. Proverbs 21:24 (NASB)

Proud

Haughty

Scoffer

Insolent Pride

Insolent Pride

“ebrah”

- 33 times in the Bible.
- “overflow,” “arrogance,” “fury.”

+

“zadon”

- 11 times in the Bible.
- “insolence”, “presumptuousness.”

A person with a prideful insolence and a presumptuousness that no one will rule over him and no one will tell him what to do. He tells others what to do - up to, and including, God.

Failing to get his way results in an anger or wrath that overflows and spills over. It is an arrogance with fury - an underlying anger arising from not being in full control of what has happened or is happening – an underlying anger which might occasionally erupt.

Proud

- Arrogance having, proceeding from, or showing a high opinion of one's own dignity, importance, or superiority. An attitude of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner or in presumptuous claims or assumptions.
- The Hebrew word is זַד “zed,” used 13 times in the Bible , often translated as “arrogant.”

Haughty

- Disdainfully proud; snobbish; scornfully arrogant; supercilious
- The Hebrew word used here derived from יָהִיר “yahir” occurs 2 times in the Bible (in Habakkuk 2:5 as a “reference to a tyrant”).

Scoffer

- One who shows scorn or contempt by derisive acts or language .
- The Hebrew word used here is derived from לֹטַף “luts,” which is used 27 times in the Bible. It means to “hold in derision” or “mock.” It implies someone who is acting from a position of self-superiority, critically judging others in a way that belittles them.

Different Terms, Same Thing

Commonly
Observed
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Narcissism

Narcissistic Personality Disorder

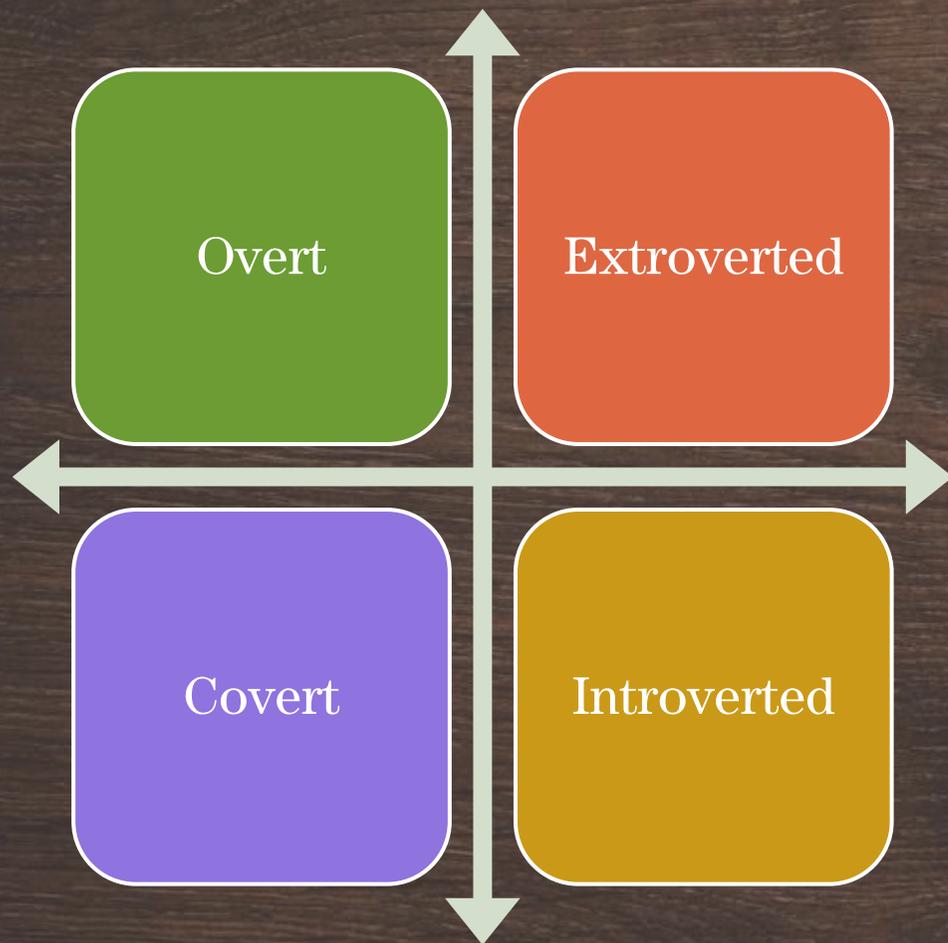
Projection

Insolent pride

Haughty

Scoffers

It's Not Always Obvious



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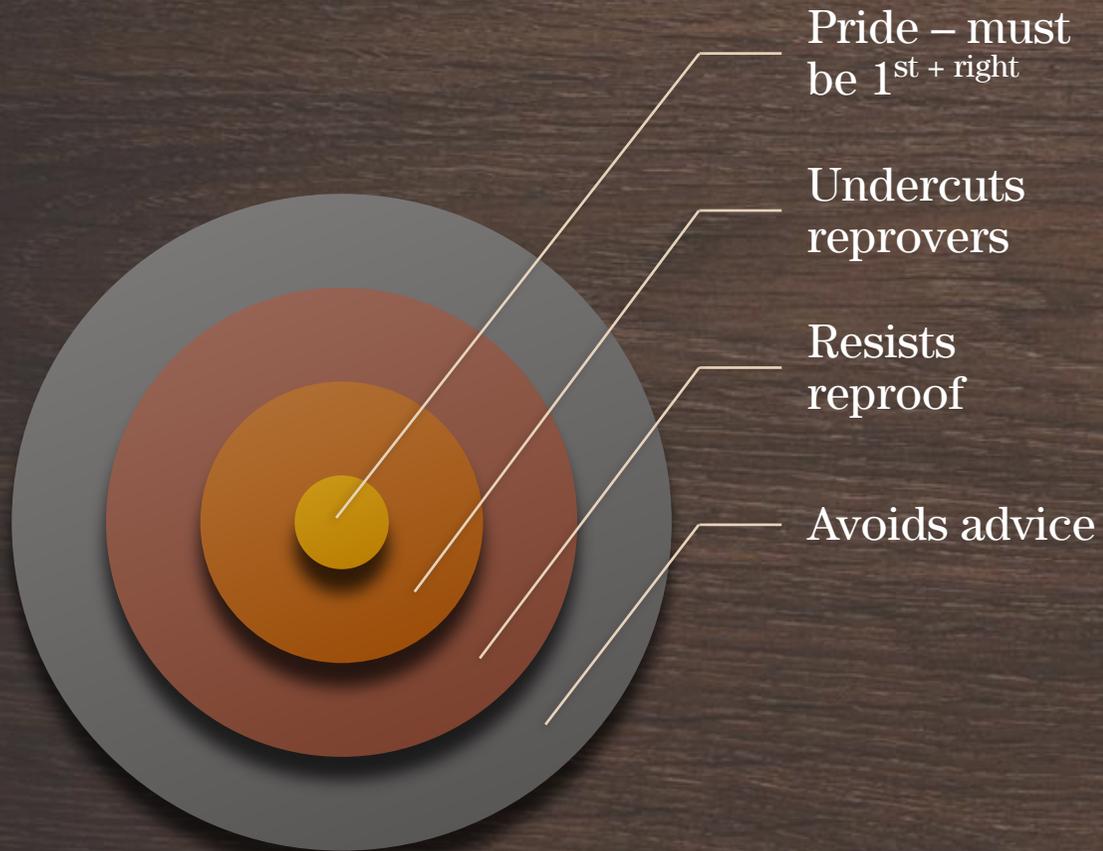
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A Scoffer's Layers Of Protection



- He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you. Proverbs 9:7-8
- A wise son accepts his father's discipline, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. Proverbs 13:1
- A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, he will not go to the wise. Prov 15:12



The Scoffer Creates Conflict

- Through **insolence** comes nothing but strife, but wisdom is with those who receive counsel. Proverbs 13:10
- When pride [insolence] comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom. Proverbs 11:2
- Drive out the **scoffer**, and contention will go out. Even strife and dishonor will cease. Proverbs 22:10
- **Scorners** set a city aflame, but wise men turn away anger. Proverbs 29:8

If there's drama, look for a scoffer

Scoffer

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- The Hebrew word used here is derived from לֹטַף “luts,” which is used 27 times in the Bible. It means to “hold in derision” or “mock.” It implies someone who is acting from a position of self-superiority, critically judging others in a way that belittles them.

Scoffers Are Hypocritical Judges of Others

“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye?

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye. Matthew 7:1-5

Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. Rom 2:1

The Link Between Hypocrisy & Judging

- Hypocrite – “an actor underneath”, from Greek stage players who wore masks
 - One outward face, covering what’s underneath
- Hypo - under
- Krino – judge
- One hiding under a mask of righteousness while judging others
- Hypocrisy more than simply violating a standard – it is violating a standard which you have created for someone else
- “Woe to you, scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites!” 7X in Matthew 23.

Lawgiver & Judge

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! Ps 1:1

Do not speak against one another, brethren.

He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?
James 4:11-12

Lawgiver & Judge

- When we unjustly judge and censure others, we usurp God's rights, claiming superiority over the law as if men were more under our authority than under God's. Our brother is not to be governed by our whims, but by God's law and his own conscience."
- (From "A Portrait of God", Daniel Chamberlin's excellent summary of Stephen Charnock's classic work, "The Existence and Attributes of God")
- "RULES ARE FOR THE LITTLE GUY" (we will revisit this later)

Additional Traits & Tactics

Create conflict	Deceivers & liars	Succeed through flattery	Will say anything	You cannot trust their words	Create "righteous" cover for agenda
Wolves in sheep's clothing	Trash you if you reprove them	Tendency toward legalism	Impossible to please	Complain & grumble	Deceive themselves
Berating Bullies	Blind Guides	Refuse to admit error	Self Justification	Fake repentance	Incomplete repentance
"I was only kidding"	Entrapment to destroy	Snipe out of jealousy	Discard the tools of their treachery	Rage when thwarted	Intransigent
		Charming, not gracious	Never learn		



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Case Study = Testimony of the Lord

“The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

Psalm 19:7

Testimony of the Lord = how GOD has worked in a situation in accordance with His Word and ways

Case Studies*

- Satan
- Cain
- Esau
- Eliab
- King Saul
- Absalom
- Hezekiah

- Nebuchadnezzar
- Haman
- The Pharisees
- The Prodigal's brother
- Ananias & Sapphira
- Diotrephes
- More

*chronological order

Satan the Original Narcissist

- “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’
Isaiah 14:12-14
- And the devil said to Him [Jesus], “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” Luke 4:6-8



Satan's N Traits & Tactics - 1

He is the ultimate scoffer

- for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. Rev 12:10

He is a liar – lies all the time

- He (the devil) does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44

He is lawless (= not under God)

- Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness..... the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. I John 3:4-8



Satan's N Traits & Tactics - 2

He is a schemer

- so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes. 2 Cor 2:11

He acts with false righteousness

- No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Cor 11:14

He is conceited

- and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 1 Timothy 3:6

He seeks to project power

- that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders... 2 Thess 2:9



Satan's N Traits & Tactics - 3

He flees when resisted

- Resist the devil and he will flee from you James 4:7

He seeks out targets

- Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. I Peter 5:8

He tries to ensnare

- so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. I Tim 3:7

He looks for opportune times

- When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time. Luke 4:13



The Pharisees

And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 18:9-14

Self-exaltation a hallmark of N's



The Pharisee & The Publican



1. Proud (of his accomplishments) –
 1. “Who trusted in themselves that they were righteous”,
 2. “Was praying thus to himself”,
 3. "I fast twice a week;
 4. “I pay tithes of all that I get"
2. Haughty - "God, I thank you that I am not like other people..."
3. Scoffer - "Viewed others with contempt"

Pharisee & Publican

- The Pharisee viewed himself as better than "others" (as represented by the guy standing next to him). And Jesus specifically says that he “exalted himself” and “viewed others with contempt.” The Biblical word for contempt here is eksouthenéō .
 - eksouthenéō : to cast out as nothing; "to count as nothing, to treat with utter contempt, i.e. as zero"; "despise utterly"; to regard something as lacking any standing (value).
 - Contempt is disapproval tinged with disgust; i.e. - to feel contempt for a weakling. Disdain is a feeling that a person or thing is beneath one's [a narcissist's*] dignity and unworthy of one's notice, respect or concern. Noun - The feeling with which a person regards anything considered worthless
- The Pharisee’s self-exaltation left no room in his heart for the man next to him, whom he considered to be not even be worthy of his consideration.

Isaiah called the Pharisees “scoffers”

Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, **O scoffers**, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we have made a pact. The overwhelming scourge will not reach us when it passes by, For we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception.”

Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

Isaiah 28:14-16

The Pharisees were on the scene when Jesus arrived

The Pharisees – Matthew 23

They created
(arbitrary) rules,
but did not
follow those
rules v1-4

- for they say things and do not do them. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.

They did
everything to be
noticed and
exalted by
others v5-7

- But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.

The Pharisees – Matthew 23

They forced
others to
conform to
their
worldview v13

- “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in

They worked
to create a
kingdom of
sycophants v15

- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

The Pharisees – Matthew 23

They turned
everything into an
issue of money
v16-17

- “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.’ You fools and blind men! Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold?

They lacked
perspective on
what is really
important
v 23-24

- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

The Pharisees – Matthew 23

They were
outwardly
righteous, but
inwardly
rebellious
v25-28

- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

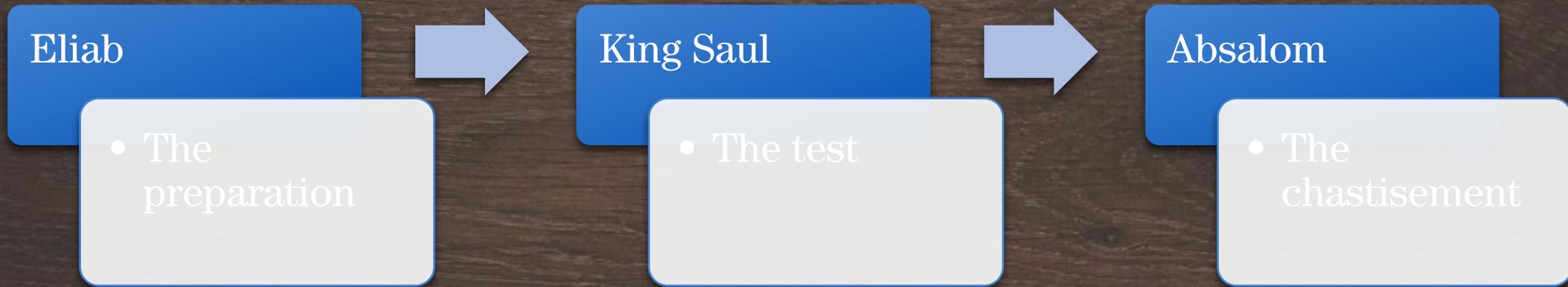
The Pharisees – Matthew 23

Sanctimonious
“I would never
have done
that!”
v29-31

- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, ‘If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.

making a hypocritical show of religious devotion, piety, righteousness
etc.:

David's Three Narcissists



Several Psalms show how David prayed through the challenges with his N's

Case Studies*

- Satan
- Cain
- Esau
- Eliab
- King Saul
- Absalom
- Hezekiah

- Nebuchadnezzar
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Create conflict	Deceivers & liars	Succeed through flattery	Will say anything	You cannot trust their words	Create "righteous" cover for agenda
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Gaslighting

- Gaslighting is a form of psychological manipulation in which a person or a group covertly sows seeds of doubt in a targeted individual or group, making them question their own memory, perception, or judgment, often evoking in them cognitive dissonance and other changes, including low self-esteem. Using denial, misdirection, contradiction, and misinformation, gaslighting involves attempts to destabilize the victim and delegitimize the victim's beliefs. Instances can range from the denial by an abuser that previous abusive incidents occurred, to belittling the victim's emotions and feelings, to the staging of bizarre events by the abuser with the intention of disorienting the victim.
- The term originated from the British play *Gas Light* (1938), performed as *Angel Street* in the United States, and its 1940 and 1944 film adaptations (both titled *Gaslight*).
- The term is now thrown around to mean any kind of lying

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- Four Possible Causes
- A Path To Genuine Change
- Coping With Narcissists
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Questions

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Part 2

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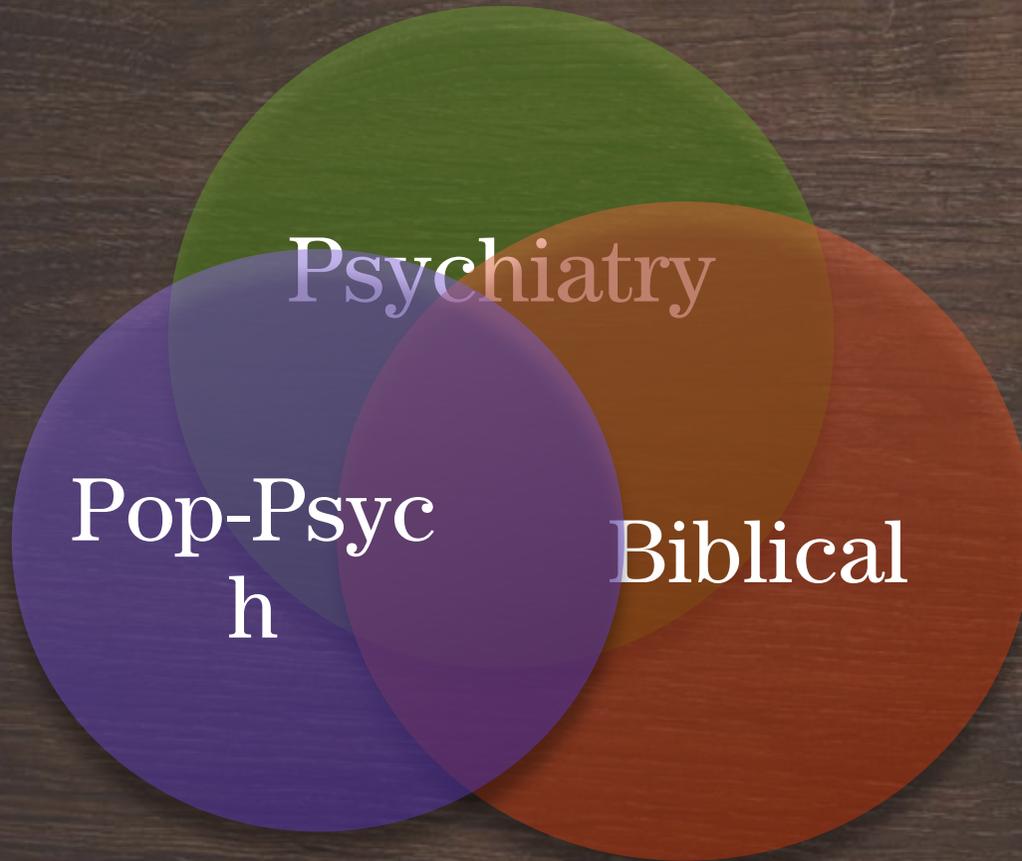
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- How to Pray for Them
 - Can they change?
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Quick Recap - Secular vs. Biblical



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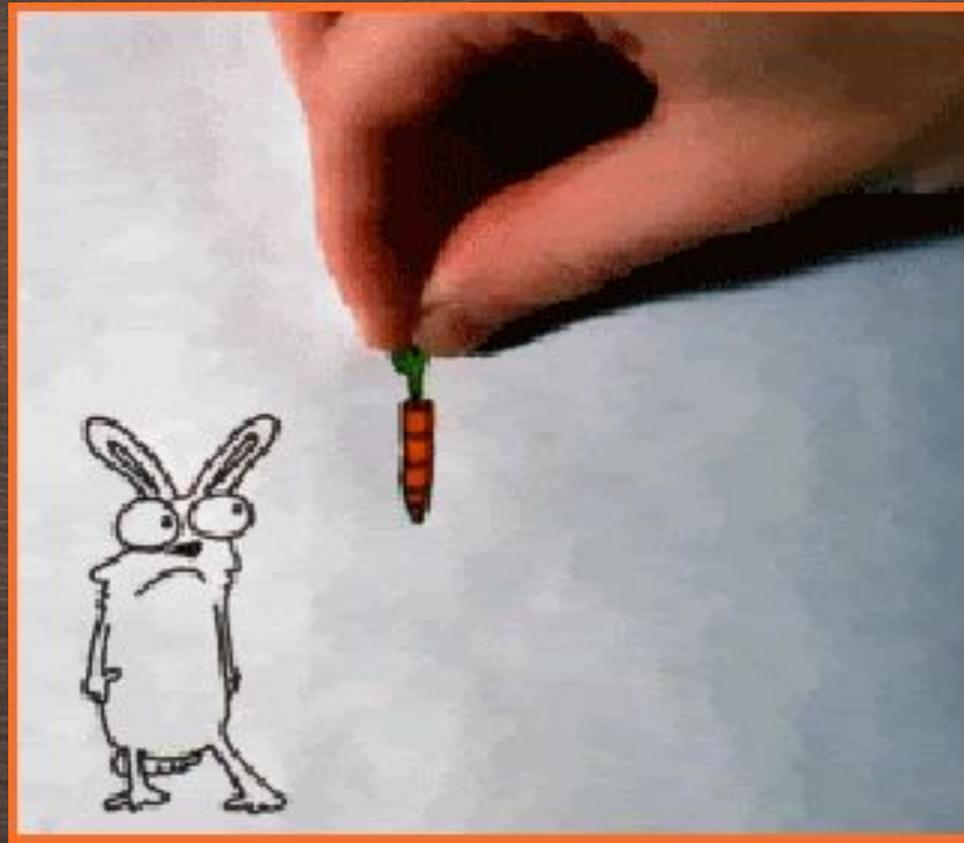
Want to be 1st, and recognized as such

Hypocritically judging others from an assumed position of superiority

Will do everything to protect their position (at least in their own mind)

“Proud,” “Haughty,” “Scoffer,” are his names, who acts with insolent pride. Proverbs 21:24

What Is Your Example?



What Is Your Example?

Promising

Like a madman who
throws firebrands,
arrows and death, so
is the man who
deceives his neighbor,
and says, “Was I not
joking?” Pr 26:18-19

• Withholding

“Just kidding”



Discern Responsibility – God’s vs Mine

O Lord, my heart is not proud,
nor my eyes haughty; nor do I
involve myself in great matters,
or in things too difficult for me.
Surely I have composed and
quieted my soul; like a weaned
child rests against his mother, my
soul is like a weaned child within
me..... Psalm 131:1-2



Dealing With N's



Safeguards

Wise
words &
actions

Effective
praying

Dealing With “N’s



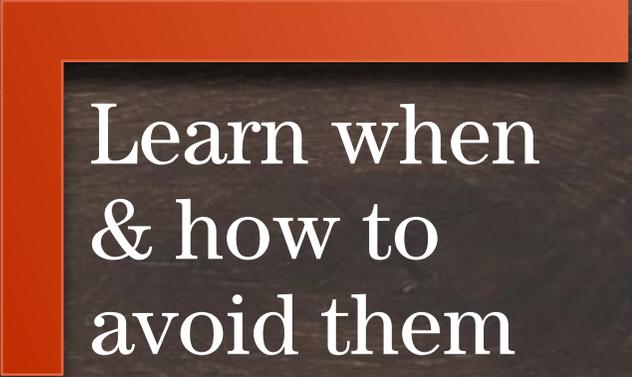
Safeguards



Prepare for
the real fight



Guard
against their
biggest
weapon



Learn when
& how to
avoid them

It's Not Just About You vs Your "N"

It's Not This.....

.... It's This



Make The Full Armor of God Real (Eph 6)

Gird loins with truth

- Speak truth to yourself in the range of attacks

Breastplate of righteousness

- Make sure you didn't cause it

Feet with gospel of peace

- Solid life purpose broadens the scope

Shield of faith

- See God's love, wisdom, power, faithfulness

Helmet of salvation

- Know your eternal destination

Sword of the spirit

- Have a tool for offense against the enemy

Safeguards



The Biggest Weapon (and they know it)

So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.....But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. James 3:1-12

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:21

A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin. Proverbs 26:28

Guard Against Their Biggest Weapon

Speak truth to yourself

- O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart. Psalm 15:1-2

Do not rely on their inflated, false claims

- Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely. Proverbs 25:14

Fact check everything

- "The first to plead his case seems right, until another comes and examines him." Proverbs 18:17

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- "The first will say to another, 'I have done nothing for the Lord, until I see a sign from Him.' Proverbs 18:17

Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not....."

Matt 7:22

Guard Against Their Biggest Weapon

Understand their motives

- A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin. Proverbs 26:28

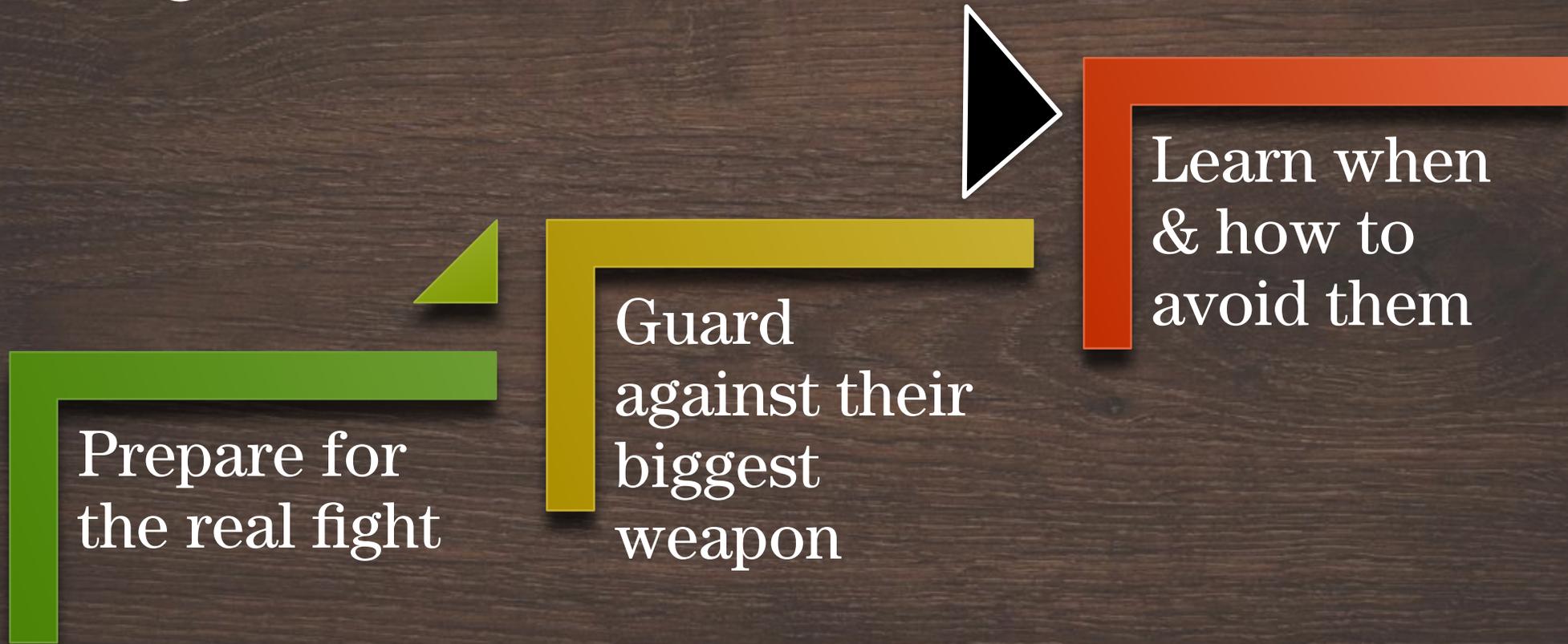
Do not place your trust in them

- How blessed is the man who has made the Lord his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood. Psalms 40:4

Guard against their attempts to charm

- Charm is deceitful Prov 31:30
- Also Mt 22:16, John 2:24

Safeguards



Avoid Them

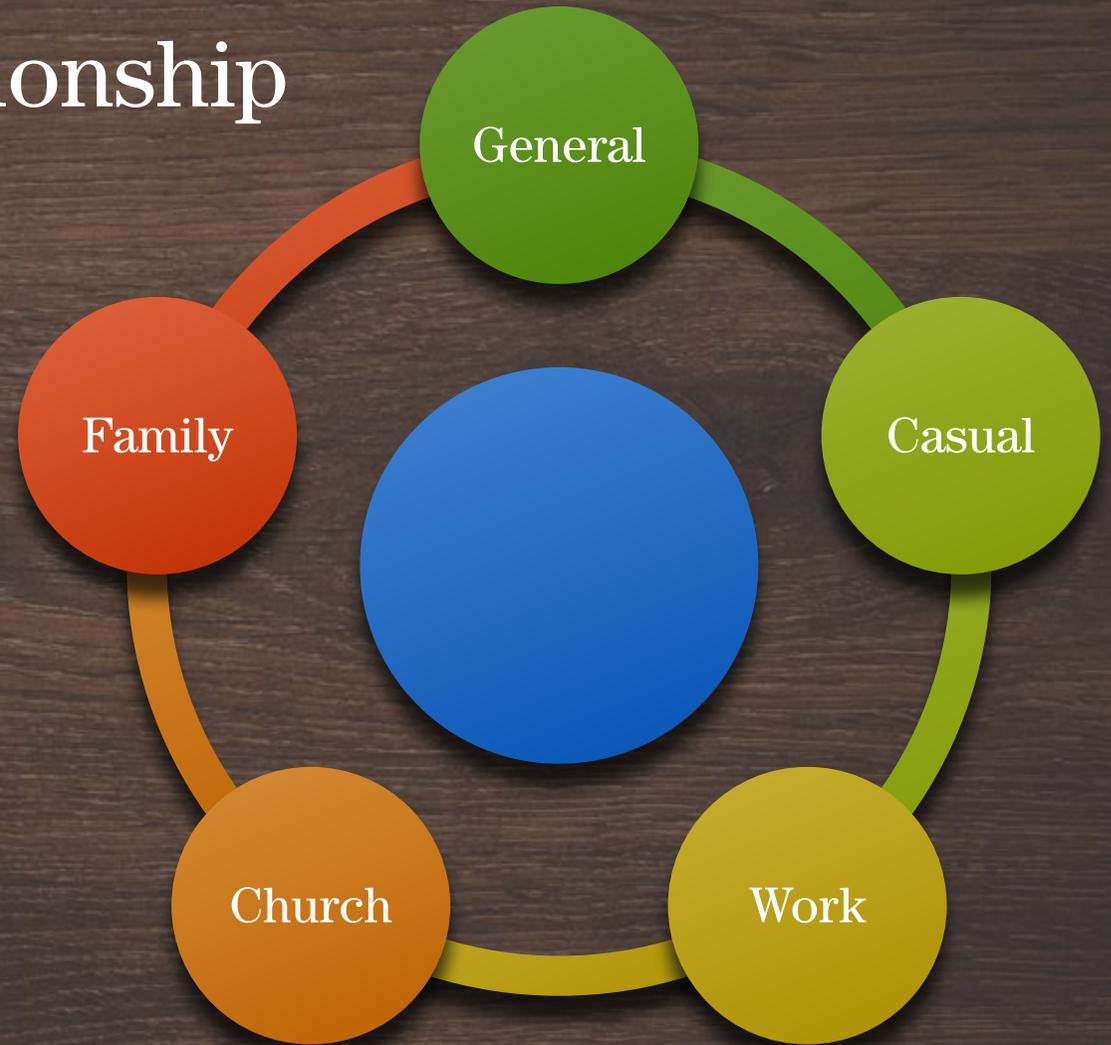


Biblical -
Balanced
approach



Secular -
“Low Contact”
“No Contact”

It Depends on the Relationship



Avoid Them - General

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; **avoid such men as these.** 2 Timothy 3:1-5

A Basic Principle

- Their self-exalting goals are not your God-given goals
- Jesus interfaced, but did not let the Pharisees detract from His purpose in life.
 - “feet shod with the gospel” Eph6
- Jesus
 - “let them alone – they are the blind leading the blind”
 - “all they tell you, do & observe, but do not do according to their deeds” Mt 23
- Don’t get sidetracked by their drama
 - “Bear one another’s burdens...
 - ...for each one must carry his own load” Galatians 6



@ Work – Employment Test

The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naive go on, and are punished for it.

Pr 22:3

1 I am very concerned with what others think of me.

2 I am easily bored.

3 I feel that I am attractive to the opposite sex.

4 I call or text my friends when we haven't spoken for a while.

5 People are always coming to me with their problems.

6 I am more important than most people I know.

7 I find that other people's remarks can be hurtful.

8 I don't like being alone for long.

9 People often don't appreciate me.

10 I feel that I am always sorting out people's problems for them.

@ Church – Do Not Let Them Hinder

Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, **and turn away from them.** For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.
Romans 16:17-18



@ Home – Create Space



A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a contentious woman are alike; he who would restrain her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand. Pr 27:15-16

It is better to live in a corner of a roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman. Pr 21:9

Going Beyond “Avoid”

Judgments are prepared for scoffers and blows for the back of fools.
Pr 19:29

1. Set boundaries
2. Define consequences
3. Consistent follow-through

N's will try to squirm out

Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out, even strife and dishonor will cease.
Pr 22:10

It depends on the relationship

Dealing With Narcissists



Safeguards

Wise
words &
actions

Effective
praying

Approach Them Wisely

- A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute.
Proverbs 15:18
- A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
Proverbs 15:1
- The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out. Proverbs 17:14
- He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city. Proverbs 16:32
- Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly deserves, that he not be wise in his own eyes.
Proverbs 26:4-5

Jesus' Wise Responses

Responded with simple truth

- But He answered and said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'" Mt 4:4

Countered their teaching

- Matthew 5 – "You have heard..... But I say to you"

Countered their example

- Matthew 6 – "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites"

Gave non-defensive explanations

- "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. Now go and learn what this means: 'I desire compassion, rather than sacrifice,' Mt 9:11-12

Jesus' Wise Responses, 2

Directly challenged them

- But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.” Mt 9:34

Used their own actions to avoid their trap

- And they questioned Jesus, asking, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might bring charges against Him. But He said to them, “What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable then is a person than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” Matthew 12

Did not force a confrontation

- But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him. But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Mt 12:14-15

Confirmed His authority

- Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.” And some of the scribes said to themselves, “This fellow blasphemes.” And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He *said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.” Matt 9:2-9

Jesus' Wise Responses, 3

Directly challenged their hypocrisy

- “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” 3 And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves also break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? Matt 15

Was not too worried about offending them

- 12 Then the disciples came and *said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?” 13 But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. 14 Leave them alone; they are blind guides of blind people. And if a person who is blind guides another who is blind, both will fall into a pit.” Matt 15

Asked qualifying questions

- 23 When He entered the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?” 24 But Jesus responded and said to them, “I will also ask you one question, which, if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Mt 21

Amazing response

- 15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said..... 17 Tell us then, what do You think? Is it permissible to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?” 18 But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? 1..... 21 They *said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He *said to them, “Then pay to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.” 22 And hearing this, they were amazed; and they left Him and went away. Mark 12

He Protected Others – Double Compassion

9 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” 6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing. 8 Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?” 9 Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the one.” 10 So they were saying to him, 12 They said to him, “Where ‘How then were your eyes opened?’ 11 He answered, **“The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.”** is He?” He *said, “I do not know.”

13 They *brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, “He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17 So they *said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?” And he said, “He is a prophet.”

18 The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, 19 and questioned them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?” 20 His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. 23 For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

24 So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner.” 25 He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 26 So they said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” 27 He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?” 28 They reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from.” 30 The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. 32 Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” **They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out.**

Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” 38 And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. 39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” 40 Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains. John 9

Jesus – Responded, Did Not Defend

For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person endures grief when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps, He who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; I Peter 2:19-23

Dealing With N's



Safeguards

Wise
words &
actions

Effective
praying

Are You Kidding Me?

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” Matt 5:43-45

“not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.” I Peter 3:9

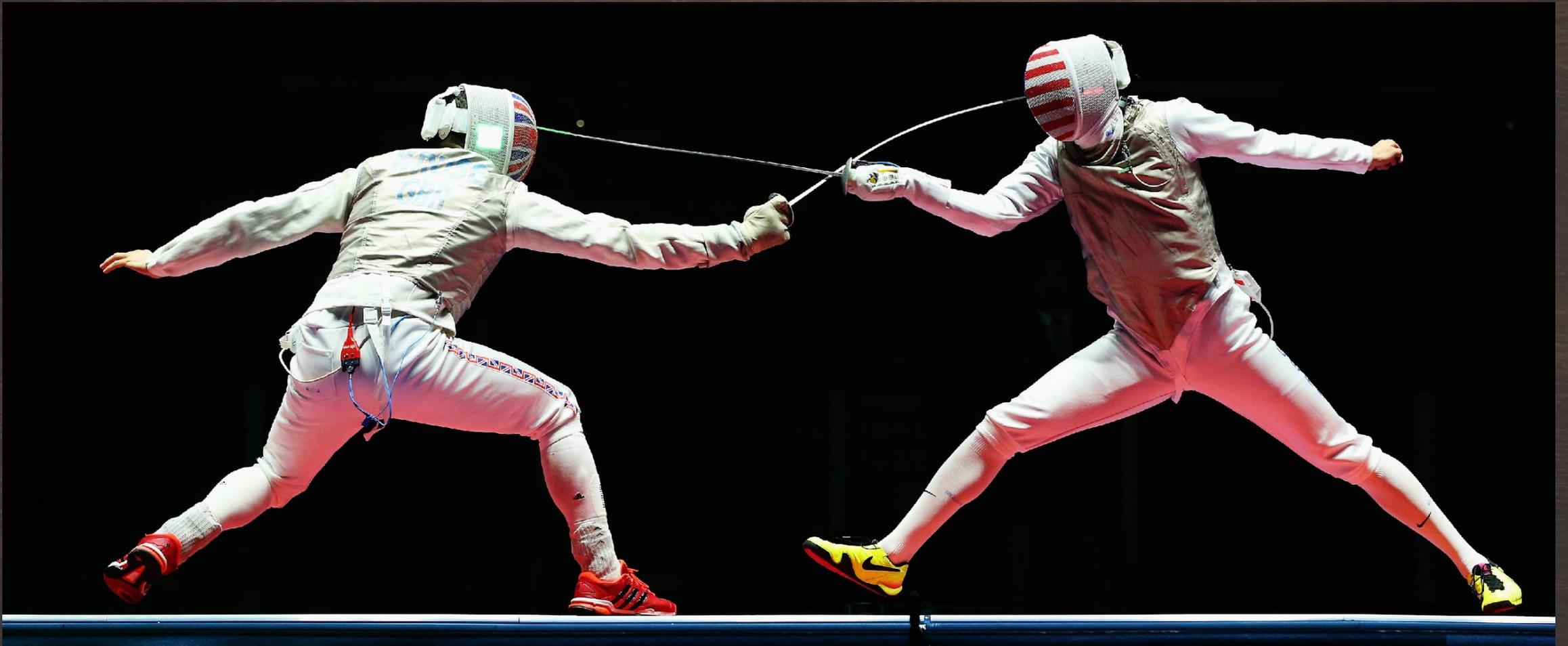
How Do We Do It?



If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. **Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.** “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Romans 12:18-20

Learn to Parry and Thrust



Dealing With N's



Safeguards

Wise
words &
actions

Effective
praying

The Effective Prayer Of The Righteous

Protection

Solutions

Redemption

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

James 5:16-18

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James 5:16-18

David's Three N's



Several Psalms show how David prayed through the challenges with his N's

David's Three N's

Eliab

Saul

- Ps 11, 17, 31, 35, 42, 43, 52, 57, 59, 63, 64, 142

Absalom

- Ps 3, 4, 5, 42, 43, 55, 62, 70, 71, 141, 143, 144

Reflections

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/parallel/paral18.cfm>

<https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/chart-19-01/>

Effective Prayer

Protection

- Physical
- Mental
- Emotional
- Circumstances
- Consequences
- Family
- Financial
- Reputation

Solutions

Redemption

The Effective Prayer Of The Righteous

Protection

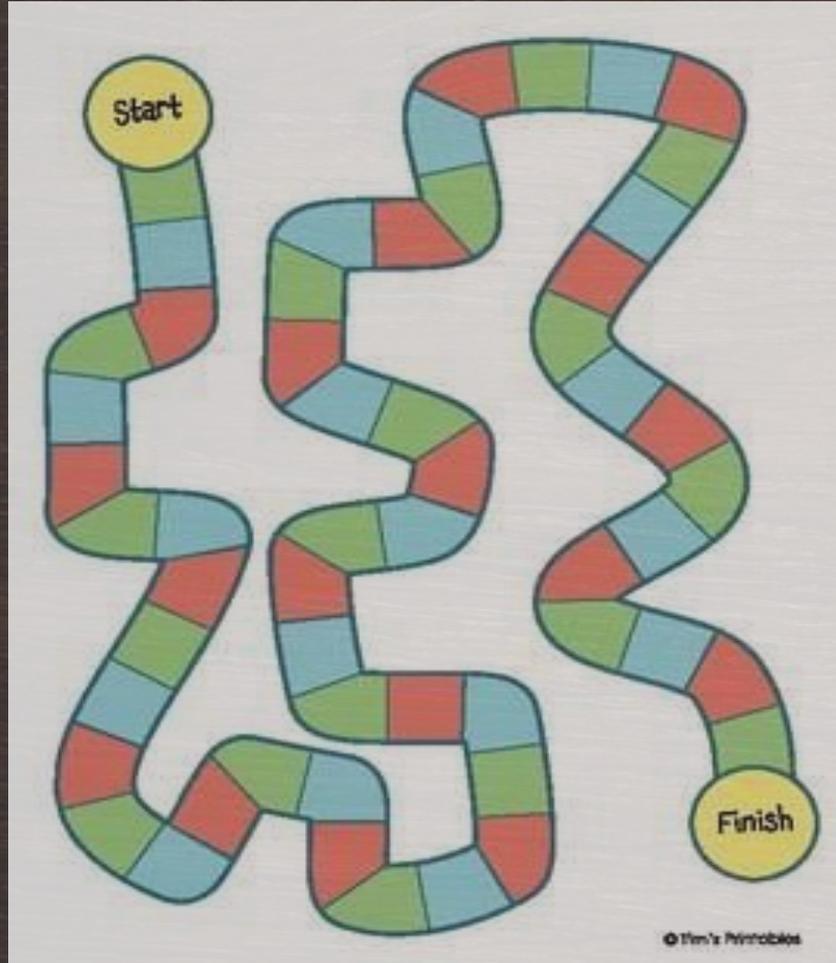
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The Daily Prayer Adventure



- David & Ahithophel (I Sam 17)
 - And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh,
 - And David said, "O Lord, I pray, make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness."
 - Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel."
- Daily need drives a closer walk with Him (daily bread)

Effective Prayer

Protection

- Physical
- Mental
- Emotional
- Circumstances
- Consequences
- Family
- Financial
- Reputation

Solutions

- Specific answers to specific needs
- Family
- Financial
- Circumstances
- Confirming your position/decision
- (not trying to bend God to our will)

Redemption

A River Of Grace Flowing Our Way



The Effective Prayer Of The Righteous

Protection

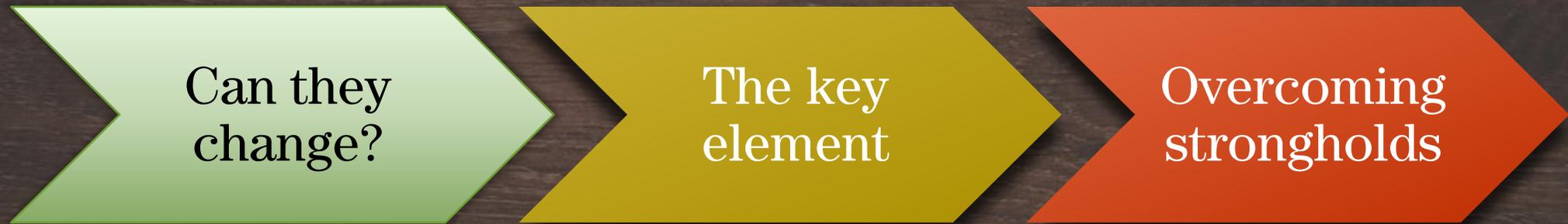
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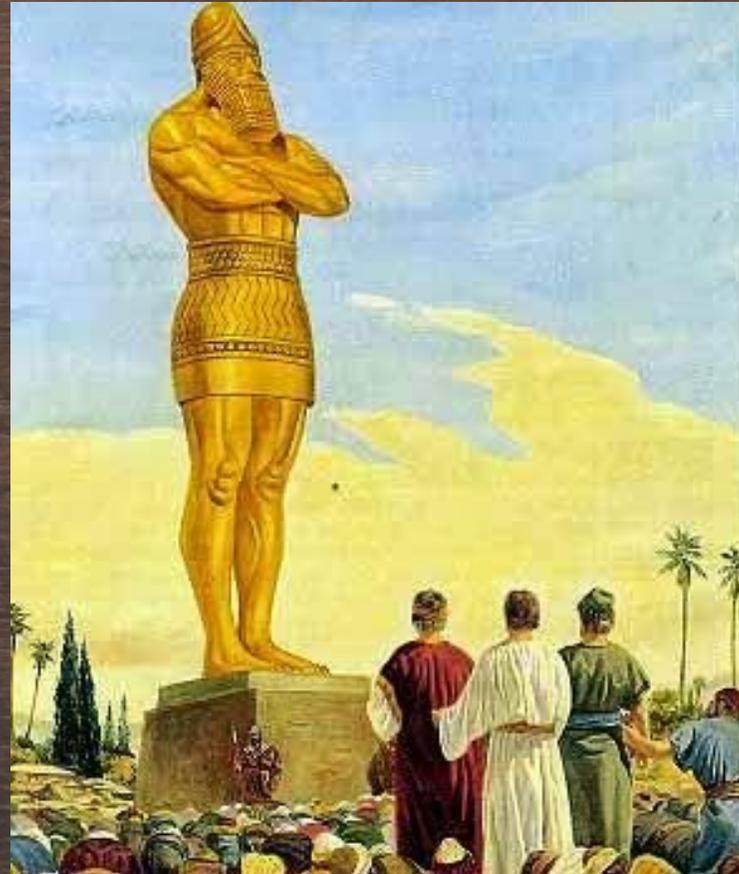
Does Praying For The N Matter?



God's Extreme Example - Nebuchadnezzar

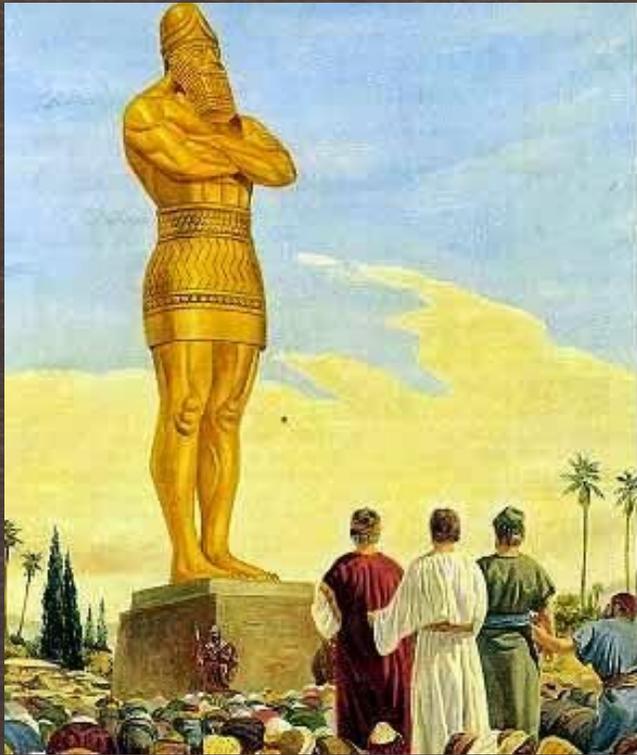
The Most Powerful King

Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and men of every language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled. But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly” Daniel 5



God's Extreme Example - Nebuchadnezzar

The Most Powerful King



Humbled By God

“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.” Daniel 4:37

Old Nebs 30 Year Process

604BC – Daniel interprets the dream

Dan 2:47 - “Surely your God is a God of gods”



585BC – Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

Dan 3:28-29 – “there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.”



574BC – the final humbling

Dan 4:2-3 “the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me.”

Redemptive Prayer



- “All things are possible with God” (Mt 19:26)

Secular View On The Cause – Mayo

Mayo Clinic - “It's not known what causes narcissistic personality disorder.” As with personality development and with other mental health disorders, the cause of narcissistic personality disorder is likely complex. Narcissistic personality disorder may be linked to:

Environment – mismatches in parent-child relationships with either excessive adoration or excessive criticism that is poorly attuned to the child's experience.

Genetics – inherited characteristics

Neurobiology – the connection between the brain and behavior and thinking”

Biblical Perspective - Four Possible Causes



Entrenched
defense to
fear & shame

Generational
sins

Self-exaltation
from
prosperity or
praise

The
“progression
of fools”

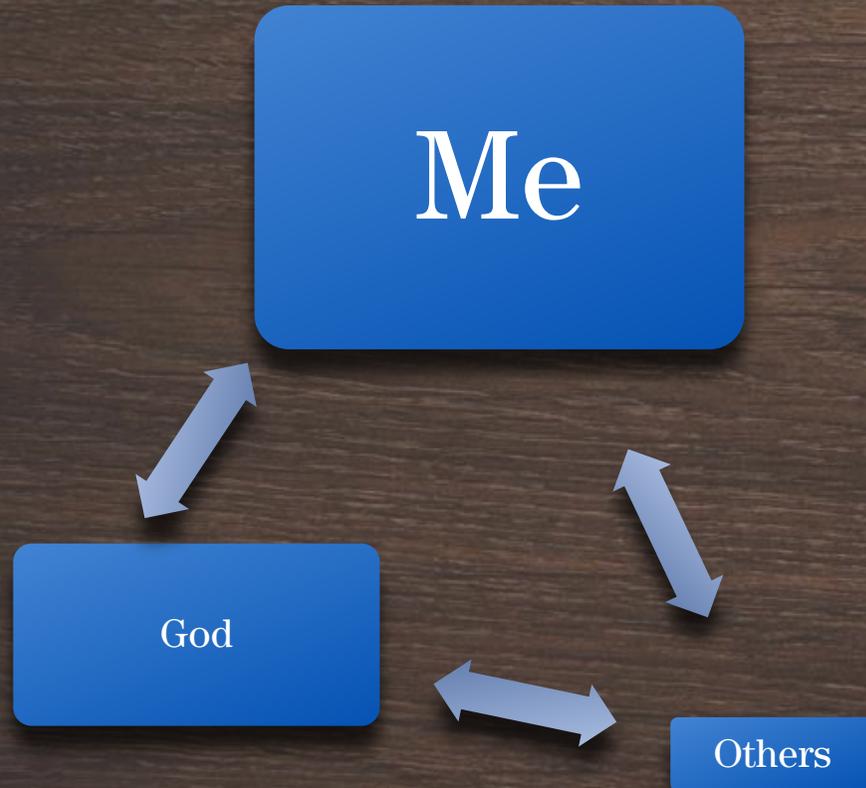
An Essential Element of the Cause

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Romans 1:18

The Greek term for unrighteousness is “adikia”, which means “not” “right” or “not” “justice”. Effectively, they are suppressing the truth in their attempt to go against, or opposite of, that truth

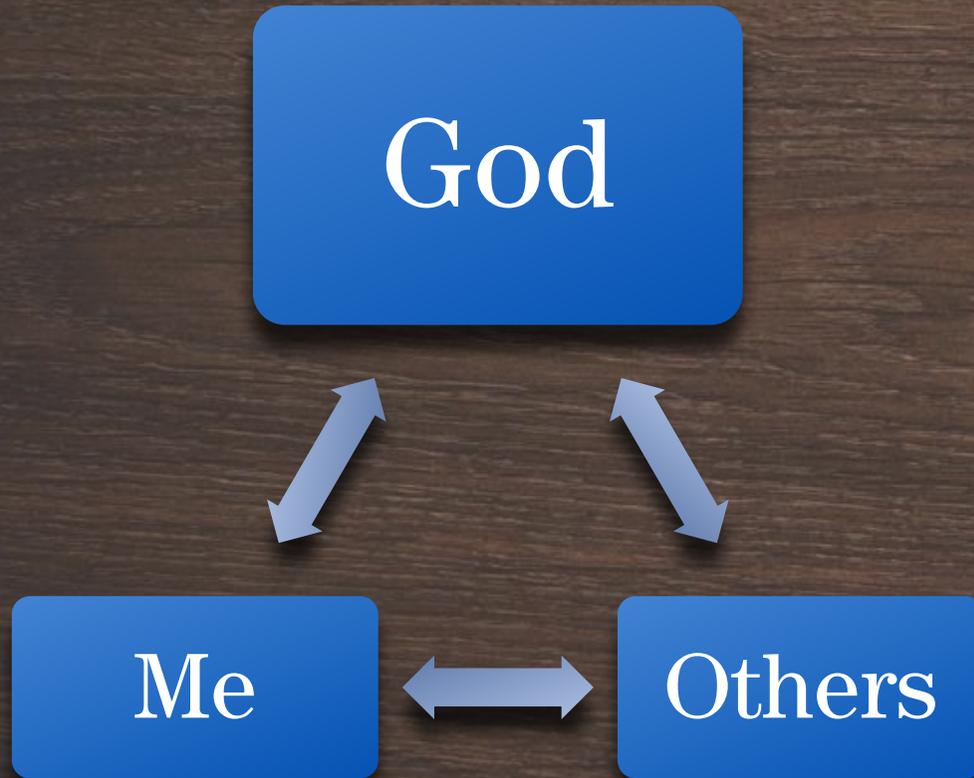
- But what truth do they suppress?
 - They suppress the ultimate truth and knowledge of God Himself (Genesis 3:14, John 8:58, Revelation 1:8) –
 - the reality of His eternal existence,
 - His divine nature of love, mercy, and justice, and
 - His infinite power, knowledge, and wisdom.
- This is not merely truth about God. It is understanding that He is the truth. All other truth derives from Him, just as Jesus said - “I am the truth”. (John 14:6).

How to Go From This....



- Small view of God
- Do not truly know the magnificence of God's love, knowledge, wisdom, and power
- Believe God and others exist to serve me
- Do not value others as a fellow part of His creation
- Exalt myself through boasting, envy, and putting others down.

.....To This



- A correct view of God – His greatness, sovereignty, and power
- A correct view of myself, as God’s creation, in comparison to Him and His greatness
- A correct view of others, as equal fellow members of His creation
- A clear view of God’s intentions, love, and goodness toward myself and others

Yielding To A Clearer View of God

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 2
Peter 1:2-3

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
John 8:31-32

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He “is” (God’s existence and attributes) and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Heb
11:1-3, 6

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” John 8:12

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Wait A Minute



They got
that way
through
rejecting
light...



..but the
solution
is more
light?



He can break through a person's blindness and Satan's deception – providing the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God, as revealed through Christ.



There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in misery and chains..... He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death and broke their bands apart. Psalm 107:10 & 14

The decisive element is, in the end, God's intervention



They got
that way
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..but the
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Radical Revelation

Miraculous
fishing haul

Tansfiguration

Paul on the
road to
Damascus

Jesus'
resurrection &
ascencion

Jesus' warning
to Capernaum

Radical Revelation

Miraculous fishing haul

- But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; Luke 5:8-9

The Transfiguration

-we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain² Peter 1:16-19
- and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. I Peter 5:5-7

The Essential Prayer

....while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. **I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. Ephesians 1:17-19

.... Also, for unbelievers....

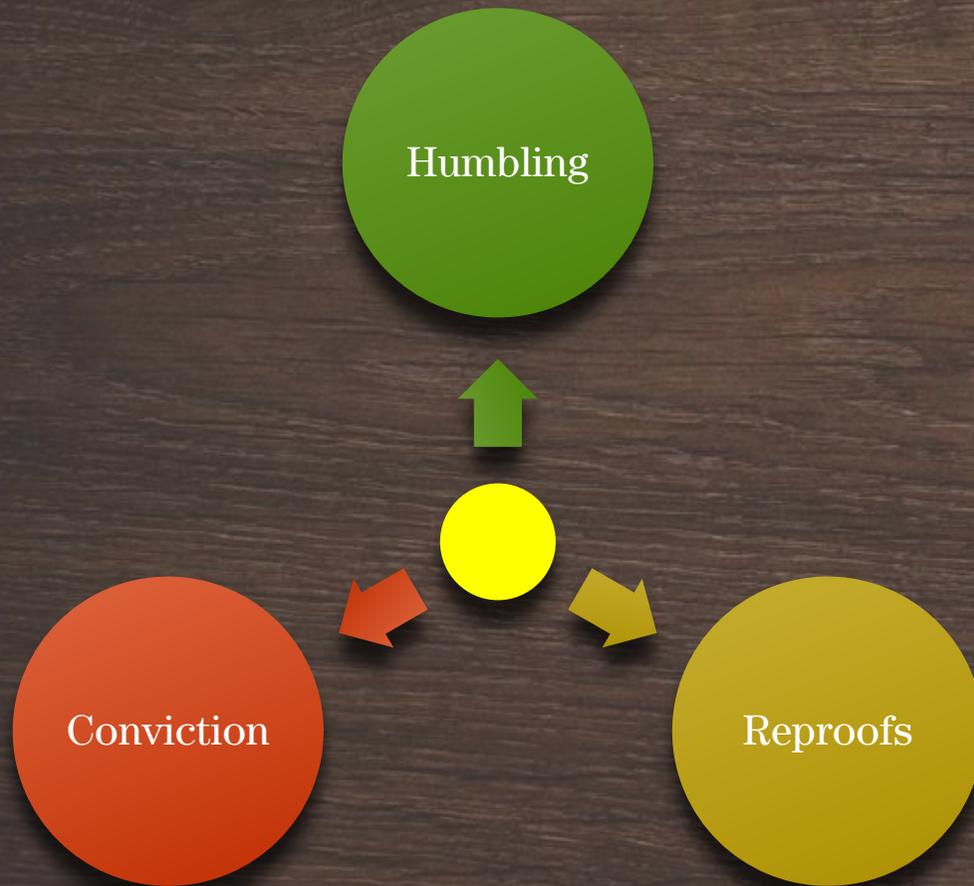
“and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Tim 3:15

Radical Revelation



He (the king of Aram) sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” **Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.”** And the Lord opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
2 Kings 6

Other ways to pray for their good



- Bless those who curse you, pray for those who persecute you
- Praying for an enemy can be more than just “bless them”
 - Pray for their ultimate good
- BUT
 - 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; or the Lord will see it and be displeased, and turn His anger away from him.
 - See Jesus’ example at the end of Matthew 23

Don't Give Up

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not become discouraged, saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect any person. Now there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but later he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect any person, yet because this widow is bothering me, I will give her justice; otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge *said; now, will God not bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night, and will He delay long for them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:1-8

George Muller – Daily Prayer for the Conversion of 5 Individuals



Beyond The First Step



We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.. 2Cor 10:3-5

- Two are better than one (Ec4:9-10)
- Secular vs Biblical
 - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
 - Biblical counseling can be a similar process, with
 - Biblical foundation
 - God as the primary agent of change

Renewed In The Spirit Of Your Mind

- that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Ephesians 4:20-24
- And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Questions

Asking “Why”

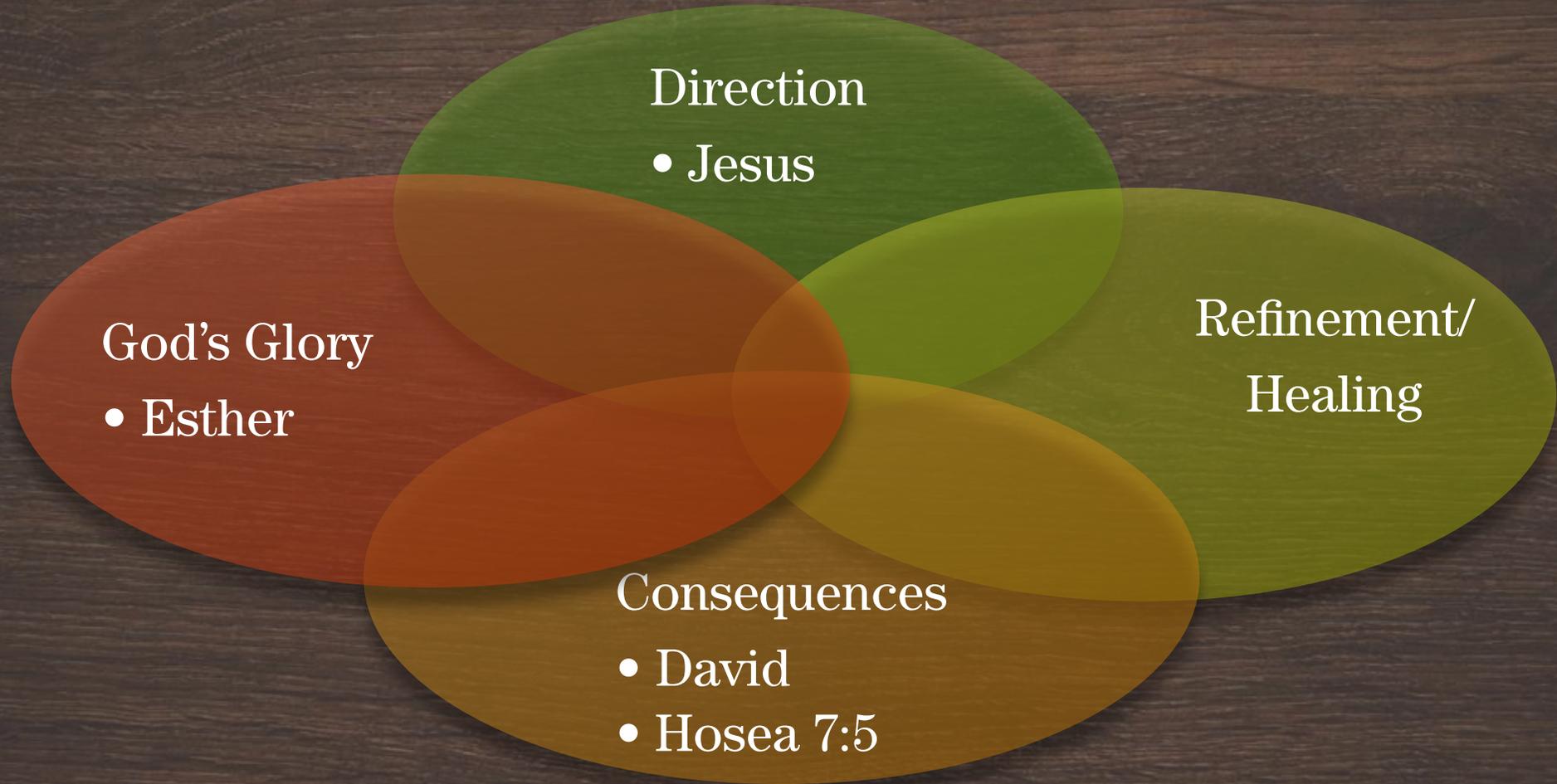
Our Situation

- God put us in this position
 - i.e. - born to narcissistic parents
- We put ourselves in this position
 - Took a job with an N boss
 - Got into a relationship with an N unawares

Our Questions

- Does God really love me?
- Does God truly know what is best for me?
- Does God have the power to do everything needed that is best for me?
- Can I expect Him to always do what is right for me?

Why?



Only Makes Sense When You Consider The End

How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion!

Passing through the valley of Baca they make it a spring; the early rain also covers it with blessings.

They go from strength to strength, Every one of them appears before God in Zion.
Ps 84:5-7

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” John 7:38

- He who believes in Me – rivers of living water
- Strength to strength?
 - Wisdom
 - He who guards His spirit is mightier than

The Four Pillars Of Trust

Trust in the Lord with all your heart – do not lean on your own understanding – in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight – Pr 3:4-6

God's
Love

God's
Wisdom

God's
Power

God's
Faithfuln
ess

Each pillar is an element of faith – a missing pillar hinders our ability to trust Him

Rick Warren: Our Life Purpose

“We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense.”

“Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christlikeness.”

Rick Warren

What Are You Going To Do Differently?

○ Cry for HELP!

○ Consider the framework

○ Learn wise responses & actions

○ Pray

Crying Out, Seeking God

- I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them. Psalm 34:4-7
- The righteous cry, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. Psalm 34:17-19

God Judges His Proud Tools

Absalom

- Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel.” For the Lord had ordained to thwart the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the Lord might bring calamity on Absalom. 2 Sam 17:14

Assyria

- Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hands is My indignation, I send it against a godless nation and commission it against the people of My fury.....So it will be that when the Lord has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will say, “I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness.” For he has said, “By the power of my hand and by my wisdom I did this,... Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? Isaiah 10:5-19

Coming Full Circle

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
Colossians 1:17-18

Rejoicing in hope,
persevering in tribulation,
devoted to prayer
Romans 12:12

Questions

Questions

Four Possible Causes

One Root, Several Branches

Entrenched
defense to
fear &
shame

Generational
sins

Self-exaltati
on from
prosperity
or praise

The
“progression
of fools”

Insolent Pride

Scenario 1

The Scenario

The scenario is that someone in power or authority bullies and seeks to dominate a child – either overtly or covertly. This typically includes constant criticism, leading a child to ultimately fear that he’s “good for nothing” - which is a lie.

Possible Responses

- How can the child respond?
 - Accept the lie
 - Defend himself against the lie and the fear
 - Use God’s defense against the lie



A Big Warning

- And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.
- “Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! Matthew 18:5-7



Scenario 2 – Generational Sin

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” Exodus 34:6-7 (see also Exodus 20:5-6)



Three Points On Generational Sin

Generational sin is not an excuse

- The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself. Ezekiel 18:20

Jesus came to break the bonds

- the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:8

Opportunity to confess generational sin (also Daniel's prayer)

- 'If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me.....or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, Leviticus 26:40-42

Generational Sin

- First, generational sin is not an excuse for the child. He is ultimately responsible for himself and his own life responses before God. He cannot say, “it’s all my parents’ fault”. God makes clear that everyone is finally responsible for their own sin.
 - The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself. Ezekiel 18:20



2nd

- Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:7
- Jesus came to break the bonds or chains of sin, including the chains of generational sin.
 - the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:8



Underscores N Cultures

- We have heard of the pride of Moab, an excessive pride; Even of his arrogance, pride, and fury; his idle boasts are false. Isaiah 16:6
- “We have heard of the pride of Moab—he is very proud—Of his haughtiness, his pride, his arrogance and his self-exaltation. “I know his fury,” declares the Lord, “But it is futile; His idle boasts have accomplished nothing. Jeremiah 48:29-30
- Referring to Edom,
 - “As for the terror of you [Edom], The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, O you who live in the clefts of the rock, Who occupy the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as an eagle’s, I will bring you down from there,” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 49:16



Scenario 3 – Self-Exaltation from Prosperity or Praise

- When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you. “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. He led you through the vast and terrifying wilderness with its venomous snakes and scorpions, a thirsty and waterless land. He brought you water from the rock of flint....
Deuteronomy 8:11-15



Scenario 3

- but when they had grazed, they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me. Hosea 13:6 (ESV)
- THE TEST OF PROSPERITY
- Examples – people who acted one way while poor & downtrodden, but as soon as they had a little success they revealed their true colors



Scenario 4 – The Progression Of Fools



Progressive hardening of heart -□



Three Questions

Can A Narcissist Be A Christian?

- The Importance of fruit

Do They Really Get Away With It?

Can They Change?

Words vs. Fruit

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

Matthew 7:21-23

The Importance Of Genuine Fruit

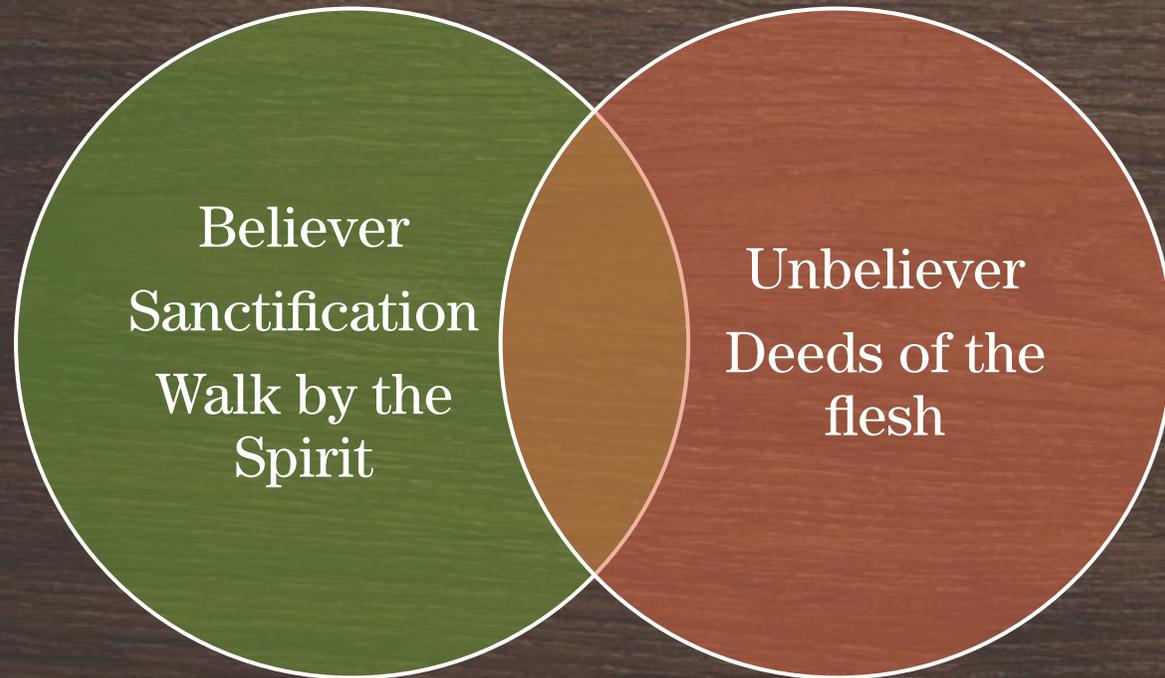
But when he [John the Baptist] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

Therefore, bear fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:7-10

The Deeds of the Flesh vs Evidence of Fruit



But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Gal 5:16-18

C's Can Have N Traits – The Big Question Is Any Evidence Of Regeneration



But 100 percent toxic, pathological narcissism (insolent pride) gives good reason to question someone's salvation

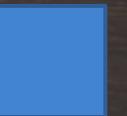


Additional Case Studies



Cain

- For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. I John 3:11-12
- 10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. 11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. 12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; Jude 1:10-12



Cain, cont'd.

And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." 8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. 11 Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." 13 Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is too great to bear! 14 Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." 15 So the Lord said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him. Genesis 4

- Anger & pouting that his offering was not accepted by God
- Jealous of Abel, and killed him
- Lied and deflected God's question
- Exaggerated God's judgement



Esau

“that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.” Hebrew 12:16-17

“When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; and Esau said to Jacob, “Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished.” Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” Esau said, “Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?” And Jacob said, “First swear to me”; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.” Genesis 25:29-34



Eliab – David’s Oldest Brother

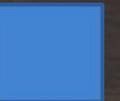
- Passed over to be king – God specifically said in reference to Eliab – “man looks on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart”
- Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he [David] spoke to the men; and Eliab’s anger burned against David and he said, “Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle.” But David said, “What have I done now? Was it not just a question?” I Samuel 17:26-29
- David had to deal with him his entire youth



Saul – The Covert N

An inferiority
complex

- And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. ~ I Samuel 9:2
- And Saul answered and said, “Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?” ~ I Samuel 9:21



Samuel to Saul – What Have You Done?

Did not want to
look bad in eyes
of the people

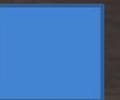
- "Saul said...“When I saw that the people were scattered from me,

Blamed Samuel

- and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,

Blamed the
people

- But Saul and the people spared Agag (the king of the Amalekites) and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.
~ I Samuel 15:9



Saul, cont'd

Samuel's
instruction

- 8 And you shall go down before me to Gilgal; and behold, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings. You shall wait seven days until I come to you and show you what you should do." I Samuel 10:8

Saul's action to
avoid losing face

- 8 Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him. 9 So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and to greet him.



Saul, cont'd

Saul's excuse – "I forced myself"

- But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the Lord.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering." I Samuel 13:11-12

Judgement #1

- But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." I Samuel 13:14



Saul, cont'd.

Saul's rash,
self-centered
restriction

- Now the men of Israel were hard-pressed on that day, for Saul had put the people under oath, saying, "Cursed be the man who eats food before evening, and until I have avenged myself on my enemies." I Samuel 14:24

Saul condemned
the people for
their response

- The people rushed greedily upon the spoil, and took sheep and oxen and calves, and slew them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood. Then they told Saul, saying, "Behold, the people are sinning against the Lord by eating with the blood." And he said, "You have acted treacherously; roll a great stone to me today." I Samuel 14:32-33



Saul, cont'd.

Instruction #2

- Then Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the Lord....Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.” I Samuel 15:1-3

Disobedience #2

- 7 So Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is east of Egypt. 8 He captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. I Samuel 15:7-9



Saul, cont'd.

Saul's deceit

- Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have carried out the command of the Lord." I Samuel 15:13

Saul passed the blame

- But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed." I Samuel 15:14-15



Saul, cont'd

“I obeyed, it was the people”

- 17 Samuel said, “Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the Lord anointed you king over Israel, 18 and the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated.’ 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”

- 20 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I did obey the voice of the Lord, and went on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”



Saul's Incomplete Repentance

Breezy repentance
– “let’s go back to
normal”

- 24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice. 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.” 26 But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, I Sam 15:24-26

Still wanted honor
with the people

- 27 As Samuel turned to go, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore..... 30 Then he (Saul) said, “I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.” I Sam 15:27-30



Saul, cont'd

Narcissist
idealization

- 21 Then David came to Saul and attended him; and Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer. 22 Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David now stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight.” 23 So it came about whenever the evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him. I Sam 16

- And Saul said to David, “Go, and may the Lord be with you.” 38 Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor. I Sam 17



Saul, cont'd

Devaluation

- It happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with musical instruments. The women sang as they played, and said,
 - “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.”
- Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?” Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on. I Samuel 18

Saul – David's Sponsor

- Little
- Classic pattern
 - Put David on pedestal
 - Later devalued him
- Was jealous of David & sought to destroy him
- When God gave consequences, he wanted it done in a way that would not diminish his standing with the people



Absalom

Now in all Israel was no one as handsome as Absalom, so highly praised; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no defect in him. When he cut the hair of his head (and it was at the end of every year that he cut it, for it was heavy on him so he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head at 200 shekels by the king's weight. 2 Samuel 14:25-26

Now it came about after this that Absalom provided for himself a chariot and horses and fifty men as runners before him. 2 Samuel 15:1



Absalom

Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way to the gate; and when any man had a suit to come to the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And he would say, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." Then Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but no man listens to you on the part of the king." Moreover, Absalom would say, "Oh that one would appoint me judge in the land, then every man who has any suit or cause could come to me and I would give him justice."

2 Samuel 15:2-7



Absalom – David's Son

Vain

- When he cut his hair every year he weighed it to show everyone how lush it was

Took the trappings of greatness

- Provided for himself a chariot and horses and fifty men as runners before him

Undercut David's position

- “No one listens to you on the part of the King”
- “O that someone would appoint me judge”



Absalom – God Judges His Tools

He stretched out his hand with scoffers... Hosea 7:5

To David - Thus says the Lord, **'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household;** I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. 2 Samuel 12:9-11

Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel." **For the Lord had ordained to thwart the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the Lord might bring calamity on Absalom.** 2 Samuel 17:14



Hezekiah

- Pleaded with God for more time to live
- Showed off to the Babylonians
- Was ok with the pronounced judgment, since it would happen to his children, and not him



Nebuchadnezzar, p1

- Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh.” Because of this the king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel 2:11-12
- Later, Nebuchadnezzar set up a 90-foot statue of himself and required everyone in his kingdom to bow to it. The righteous Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused. Nebuchadnezzar responded in “rage and anger” (Daniel 4:13), and arrogantly said, “what God is there who can deliver you out of my hands?” (Dan 4:15). When the three righteous Jews continued to refuse, Nebuchadnezzar “was filled with wrath” to the point that “his facial expression was altered” (Daniel 4:19).



Old Neb, p2 (& Belshazzar)

- O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father. Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and men of every language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.
- But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him. He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.
- Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this, but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven
- Daniel 5:17-23



Haman

All the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman; for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage.....When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage.

Esther 3:1-5

..... but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate and that he did not stand up or tremble before him, Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai.

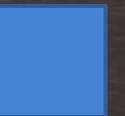
Esther 5:9-13



Haman

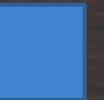
Haman controlled himself, however, went to his house and sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh. Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the number of his sons, and every instance where the king had magnified him and how he had promoted him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman also said, “Even Esther the queen let no one but me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow also I am invited by her with the king. Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.”

Esther 5:9-13



The Prodigal's Brother

- Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” Luke 15:1-2
- Story of God’s graciousness vs. the Pharisee’s insolence
- “But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’” Luke 15

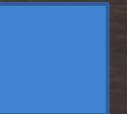


Ananias & Sapphira

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?"

While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Acts 5:1-4

1. Early church very generous (Acts 4:34), many selling land and possessions to give to others
2. Ananias & Sapphira wanted to appear as generous as others
 1. Pride in maintaining an outward appearance
 2. BUT
3. They also did not want to part with their money
4. So they hatched to lie & cheat in order to get both
5. God judged them severely



Diotrephes

“I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church.” 3 John 1:9-11

1. he loves to be first;
2. he refuses to welcome the apostles into the church;
3. he maliciously spreads gossip about men of God;
4. he withholds hospitality from other believers;
5. he requires others to follow his poor example;
6. he excommunicates anyone who crosses him.

Statements 1, 3, 5, and 6 are like the actions of the Pharisees.



Additional Traits

Biblical Summary Of Narcissist Traits

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- Created rules but do not follow
- Do everything to be noticed and exalted by others
- Force others to conform to their worldview
- Faked righteousness while inwardly greedy
- Worked to create a kingdom of sycophants
- Turned everything into an issue of money
- Lack perspective
- Outwardly righteous, but inwardly rebellious
- Judgmentally condemn their forefathers for their exact same sin

• • •



- They deceive themselves XX
- They are blind in multiple ways
- Refuse to acknowledge error XX
- Justify themselves in the sight of men XX
- Fake repentance
- Exhibit incomplete repentance
- "I was only kidding"
- Entrapment to destroy
- Snipe out of jealousy
- Discard the tools of their treachery
- Rage when thwarted
- Intransigent
- Never learn

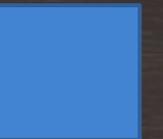
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- Create conflict
- Deceivers & liars
- Succeed through flattery
- They recognize lying as a powerful tool (Pr 26)
- Will say anything
- You cannot trust their words
- Use "Righteousness" as a tool
- Wolves in sheep's clothing
- They are often found in religious roles
- Tendency toward legalism
- They create "righteous" reasons for their agenda
- They use "faith" or "righteousness" as justification for personal ambition
- Impossible to please
- Complain & grumble
- They are Blind XX

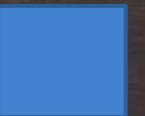
Taking It Further

- Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross are burning lips and a wicked heart. He who hates disguises it with his lips, but he lays up deceit in his heart. When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. Though his hatred covers itself with guile, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. Proverbs 26:23-26
- “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”
Luke 6:45



Scoffers Create Conflict

- Through insolence comes nothing but strife, but wisdom is with those who receive counsel. Proverbs 13:10
- When pride [insolence] comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom. Proverbs 11:2



They Are Deceivers & Liars

- You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44



They Will Trash You If You Reprove Them

He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you. Proverbs 9:7-8

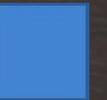
Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross are burning lips and a wicked heart. He who hates disguises it with his lips, but he lays up deceit in his heart. When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. Though his hatred covers itself with guile, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. Proverbs 26:23-26

They will speak kindly until an opportune time



N's Seek An Advantage Through Flattery

- These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; **they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage....**
- But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be **mockers**, following after their own ungodly lusts.” These are the ones who cause divisions.....
- Jude 16-19



Seek Advantage Through Flattery, cont'd

- A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps. Proverbs 29:5
- A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin. Proverbs 26:28
- There is nothing reliable in what they say; their inward part is destruction itself. Their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. Psalm 5:9
- They speak falsehood to one another; with flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that speaks great things; who have said, “With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?” Psalm 12:2



They Will Say Anything

- Messianic Psalms clearly lay out the characteristics of the scoffing Pharisees.
 - “Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. They speak falsehood to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that speaks great things; Who have said, “With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?”” Psalm 12:1-4
- So they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate *said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” John 19:15



You Cannot Trust Their Words

- The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity. You destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.
- There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction itself. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue. Hold them guilty, O God; by their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, for they are rebellious against You. Psalm 5:5-6, 9-10



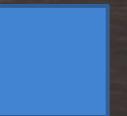
They Are Wolves In Sheep's Clothing

- “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Matthew 7:15-16
- But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. 2 Corinthians 11:12-15



The Scoffer Adds Fuel To Fires

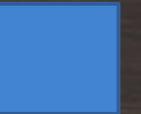
- Scorners set a city aflame, but wise men turn away anger. Proverbs 29:8
- Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife. Proverbs 26:21
- For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. Proverbs 26:20
- The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body. Proverbs 18:8 (& 26:22)



They Have A Tendency Toward Legalism

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! Matthew 23:23-24

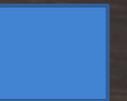
Legalism is illustrated by the Pharisees' focus on hyper-compliance to the technicalities of the rules which they created, which allowed them to look down on others - and pretend that their technical compliance to a standard of their own making was sufficient “righteousness” in God eyes



They Create Righteous-Sounding Reasons To Get What They Want

Then some Pharisees and scribes *came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death.’ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God,” he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:

“This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. ‘But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’” Matthew 15:1-9



Corban, continued

The Pharisees and the scribes *asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” 6 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

- ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 7 ‘But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’

Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, is to be put to death’; 11 but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),’ 12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that. Mark 7:5-13



They Are Impossible To Please

“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces, who call out to the other children, and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

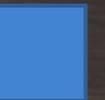
Matthew 11:16-19

(The tyrant king or queen)



They Complain & Grumble

- Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble , saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them. Luke 15:2
- When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” Luke 19:7
- These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage. Jude 1:16
- The Greek word for grumble is diagoggýzō , which means constantly, intensely murmuring (grumble, complain). It is an intensified form of goggýzō ("murmur") to convey "heavy complaining,".



They Deceive Themselves – pg1

- “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’ Obadiah 1:3
- How does a narcissist deceive himself?
 - His pride causes him to self-focus - "I'm "fine", there's nothing wrong with me".
 - He deludes himself into thinking that God won't ever judge or humble him - "I am special, and therefore God will make an exception for the mistakes that I make".
 - If he does encounter the truth that exposes his flaws, he actively resists, and in the end, ignores and forgets it so that he can maintain his inner image of perfection.



Deceive Themselves, pg 2

“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless.” James 1:22-26



They're Bullies

The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

A second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" They reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out. John 9:13-34



They Blindly Try To Guide Others

- Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Matthew 7:3-5
- Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit." Matthew 15:14
- "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.' Matthew 23:16
- You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! Matthew 23:24



They Refuse To Acknowledge Error

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death. But the governor said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate *said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all *said, “Crucify Him!”When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.” And all the people said, “His blood shall be on us and on our children!” Matthew 27:20-25

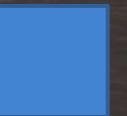
Afterward, however, they complained to Peter and John about being held responsible for Jesus’ death :

- When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” Acts 5:27-28



They Justify Themselves In The Sight Of Men

- No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”
- Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. Luke 16:13-15



They Demonstrate Fake Repentance

“Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice. ... Then he said, “I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.” 1 Samuel 15:24,30



They Demonstrate Incomplete Repentance

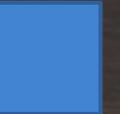
“that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.”

Hebrews 12:16-17



“I was only kidding”

Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows and death, so is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, “Was I not joking?” Proverbs 26:18-19



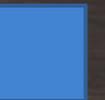
Entrapment To Destroy

The scribes and the chief priests tried to lay hands on Him that very hour, and they feared the people; for they understood that He spoke this parable against them. So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor. They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But He detected their trickery and said to them, "Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were unable to catch Him in a saying in the presence of the people; and being amazed at His answer, they became silent. Luke 20:19-26



They Snipe Out of Jealously

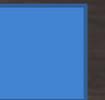
“And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?” And Jesus answered and said to them, “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:29-32



They Discard The Tools Of Their Treachery

Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death; and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor.

Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." Matthew 27:1-10



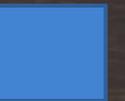
They Rage When Thwarted

- But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus. Luke 6:11
- When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. Acts 5:33 (ESV)
- And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities. Acts 26:11 (ESV)
- Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. Acts 7:54 (ESV)



They Are Intransigent

- “You men (the Pharisees) who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.” Acts 7:51



Charming, But Not Truly Gracious

- “Charm is deceitful...” Proverbs 31:30
- Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross are burning lips and a wicked heart. He who hates disguises it with his lips, but he lays up deceit in his heart. When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. Though his hatred covers itself with guile, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. Proverbs 26:23-26
- Scoffing is the opposite of extending grace (i.e. – graciousness)



They Never Learn

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.... **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** 2 Timothy 3:1-7

When the scoffer is punished, the naive becomes wise. But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. Proverbs 21:11 (& 19:25)

