

Building Bridges

2 Tim. 3:1-5

“Building Bridges Via Respect for Deceitful Fraud”

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Our theme this year is *“Building Bridges.”* A few weeks ago we began considering the construction of such bridges via RESPECT.

Respect – esteem for or a sense of the worth or excellence of a person, a personal quality or ability, or something considered as a manifestation of a personal quality or ability:

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/respect?s=t>

“Building Bridges Via Respect Within the Family”

“Building Bridges Via Respect Among the Faithful”

“Building Bridges Via Respect Toward the Faithless”

Last week we looked at the theme of *“Building Bridges via Respect”* by considering from where the fountainhead of all respect flows...the WORD OF GOD!

“Building Bridges Via Respect for Faithful Truth”

This morning we will look at a very difficult subject, especially for the spiritually immature:

Eph. 4:14 That we henceforth **be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby **they lie in wait to deceive**;

Eph. 5:6 **Let no man deceive you with vain words**: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

2 Tim. 3:13 But **evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**

Respect for those who undermine believers results in bridges built in misdirected loyalty for deceivers – why I entitled the message...

“Building Bridges Via Respect for Deceitful Fraud”

I. THE MOST SUBTLE AND VIOLENT DECEPTION

A. Disguise the Danger as Harmless

Gen. 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. ...

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for **in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

Gen. 3:4 And **the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:**

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.

- The LORD gave Adam his responsibilities of service, and then stated a warning about the severity of danger with one tree.
- Satan deceived Eve, stating that the severity was untrue.
- Satan disguised the danger as something harmless.

B. Disguise their Doctrine as Holiness

Gen. 3:6 **And when the woman saw that the tree was good** for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

2 Tim. 3:5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:** from such turn away.

Isa. 5:20 **Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;** that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Job 30:26 **When I looked for good, then evil came unto me:** and when I waited for light, there came darkness.

Eph. 4:14 That we henceforth **be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby **they lie in wait to deceive;**

Rom. 16:18 For **they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly;** and **by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.**

- Satan convinced Eve to look at the “good.”
- The “good” also contained the evil that destroyed fellowship with God.
- The immature, simple-hearted, are easily deceived.

Heb. 5:12 For **when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you** again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and **are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.**

13 For **every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word** of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But **strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

II. THE METHODOICAL SATANIC VERSION OF DECEPTION

A. Challenge the Veracity of the Scriptures

Gen. 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Jer. 29:8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; **Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you**, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

Mt. 24:5 For **many shall come in my name**, saying, I am Christ; **and shall deceive many**.

11 And **many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many**. ...

24 For **there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect**.

B. Convince the Vanity of Separation

- Remember the influence of Balaam against the Israelites.

Num. 25:1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

3 And **Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.** (See 1 Cor. 10)

Rev. 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that **hold the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil.**

2 Cor. 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,** and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

III. THE MEANS OF SCRIPTURAL VICTORY OVER DECEPTION

A. Live the Will of God

Psa. 143:10 **Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God:** thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And **be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may **prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

B. Learn the Word of God

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Psa. 25:4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; **teach me thy paths.**
5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Psa. 86:11 **Teach me thy way, O LORD;** I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

Psa. 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?
by **taking heed thereto according to thy word.** ...

11 **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

Psa. 119:33 **Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes;** and I shall keep it unto the end.

Jn. 5:39 **Search the scriptures;** for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me.**

C. Love the Work of God

Heb. 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget **your work and labour of love,** which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Jn. 9:4 **I must work the works of him that sent me**, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

1 Cor. 3:13 **Every man's work shall be made manifest**: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Every day is a 'Labor Day' of love for a believer faithfully serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

- Satanic scam artists play upon the respect of the unsuspecting weak, the misguided gullible, and the spiritually distracted and discouraged.

Ezek. 22:25 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, **like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things;** they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

1 Pet. 5:8 **Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- Save your respect for those who teach the truth of the Word of God, guide you in the will, doing the work of God, for the glory of God.

1 Thess. 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to **know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;**

13 And to **esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.** And be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.**

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord,** forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.