

The Man Behind the Curtain: Media and Culture

“We are not unaware of his schemes.” (2 Cor. 2:11)

1. Satan's methods
 - a) Encourage rebellion against established authority
 - Gene 3:4-5 (NKJV) Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
 - b) Cloak evil in an attractive guise
 - 2 Cor 11:14 (NASB) ...for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
 - c) Rather than directly opposing truth, gradually alter it to lies by introducing novel variations
 - Gala 1:9 (NKJV) As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
 - d) Accuse Christians of wrongdoing whenever possible
 - Reve 12:10 (NKJV) Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”
 - e) Appeal to and pride and desires
 - 1 John 2:16 (NKJV) For all that [is] in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world.
 - f) Use others to tell lies
 - John 8:44 (NKJV) “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”
2. Common Media Lies and Distortions
 - a) You need more things
 - The Truth: Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust[e] destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt 6:19-21 ESV)
 - b) All religious beliefs are equivalent; “spirituality” is good
 - The Truth: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6 ESV)
 - c) Christians are mean-spirited hypocrites
 - The Truth: Instead of celebrity Christians, look at those you know personally. Are they nasty people or loving ones? Do they sincerely seek to follow the Lord?
 - d) If you disapprove of a sin that means you hate the sinner
 - The Truth: And Jesus, looking at him, *loved* him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (Mark 10:21-22 ESV)
 - e) Parental authority is misguided, irrelevant, or harmful
 - The Truth: Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (Deut 5:16 ESV)
 - f) You have rights and you deserve (compensation/respect/apologies/_____)
 - The Truth: Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matt 20:25-28 ESV)