

## THE DEVIL, THE FATHER OF LIES

John 8:44

By Raymond White

**John 8:44** ...*The devil...was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is not truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Good things come from God: **Genesis 1:31** *And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.* Does that mean that bad things come from Satan? That depends on how you look at it. Satan is not a co-creator with God — he never actually created anything — so, how can Satan *create* bad things? Actually, he didn't. He can't. But he's clever. He takes the good things that God creates and twists them into bad things by convincing us to use them in ways different than God intended. Everything is good or bad depending on how you use it.

**1 Corinthians 10:23** *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. :26 For the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.*

**1 Timothy 6:17** *God...giveth us richly all things to enjoy.*

Here are a few examples.

Water is good when you drink it, but it's bad when you drown in it.

Is food is good? **Genesis 2:16** *Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.* That makes food good. You can eat what you want. But: **Proverbs 23:21** *The glutton shall come to poverty.* Gluttony can brake you financially, to say nothing about it making you fat.

Is money is good? **Deuteronomy 8:18** *Remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth.* But money can be a bad thing too. **1 Timothy 6:9** *they that will be rich fall into temptation.*

Now for some blush. Is sex good? It must be. **Genesis 1:28** *Be fruitful and multiply.* It can't be bad if God commanded it. Do you think God blushed when he talked to Adam and Eve about the birds and the bees? Unlikely. Well then, is sex bad? In more ways than we can count, and God does not overlook it. **1 Corinthians 6:9** *Be not deceived, neither fornicators...nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...shall inherit the kingdom of God.* God made it clear: sexual immorality is serious business.

The point is this: Good things can be deadly, and will be if Satan has his way.

God gives each person gifts. He makes some people smart, others rich, still others beautiful or handsome. And there are many other gifts that God gives as he chooses. But then, Satan whispers, "Look at this wonderful thing you have. You are advantaged. Why not use your advantage to further your advantage? You're rich, buy any pleasure you want."

Every time God gives you a gift, Satan will be there trying to persuade you to use that gift in a forbidden way. That's the nature of temptation. How do you resist temptation? Just always use God's gifts for God's glory and temptation won't be so tempting.

But Satan isn't the only one that plays that game. While Satan is busy turning good things bad, God is busy turning bad things good. For example —

**Genesis 50:19** *And Joseph said unto [his brothers], Fear not...:20 ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*

Joseph's brothers did a mean thing to him, they sold him into slavery and that was evil. But was it evil? Because they sold him into slavery, their family and most of Egypt survived a seven year famine. So was that a bad thing or a good thing? Well, the bad thing turned out to be a good thing. That's what God does.

God turned the fall into redemption, death into resurrection, sin into forgiveness, and manure into roses. God does not give up a fight just because Satan snatches something away from him. God snatches it back. In fact, some things God prizes all the more because he had to fight for them.

**Luke 15:7** *Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance.*

That is amazing. Good that defeats evil makes God happier than good all by itself. Evil seems to make good better. It's as though God enjoys the challenge.

But Satan knows that too. And he uses that truth to lay a clever trap for us, and we should know how it works.

**Romans 3:5** *But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, is God unrighteousness who taketh vengeance? :7 For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come?*

That's a mouthful. Here's what Paul is saying — well, it's actually what Paul is saying that Satan is saying. It's Satan's argument, and it goes like this: God's righteousness becomes more righteous because it conquers our unrighteousness. If that's true, then shouldn't you sin more so that God's righteousness is even more righteousness?

That's the argument. And it's not as silly as it sounds; using good as an excuse to sin. Here are some real world examples: Steal so you can feed the poor (remember Robin Hood?). Divorce so you can find true love.

See how it works? Sin now so that God can turn it to good later.

How do respond to that? Well, how does God respond to that? Very simply.

**Romans 3:5** *[Their] damnation is just.*

Satan's argument is just rationalization, just one more excuse to commit the sins that God forbids. It is clever, yes. But however Satan spins it, sin is still sin. And being clever is poor compensation for being damned. Sin sometimes looks like the right thing to do. But don't do it. The devil is a liar. A clever one, but a liar just the same.