

MISHANDLING THE SCRIPTURE

*Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor **handling the word of God deceitfully**; but by manifestation of the truth **commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.***

II. Corinthians 4:1-2

This week, I intended to continue sharing a little bit more about the season of judgment that we have entered, but a few days ago, a couple of items caught my attention and they sort of brought me back to the subject of deception. The first item was a video; the other was an article; and I was once again impressed with the devils ability to mis-quote and/or mis-represent God's Word.

The apostle Paul said he did not "handle the word of God deceitfully". I think that when we read this verse, and when we think of those who do handle the Scripture deceitfully, we tend to think of TV evangelists and people like them, who are just out to get money and build their own kingdoms, and who know very well they are mis-handling the Word of God.

But there are also ministries out there who do *not* realize they are mishandling the Word of God. These ministers fall into a couple of different categories. Some of them mis-handle the Scripture unknowingly because of what they have been taught in Bible Colleges and Seminaries. They trust implicitly the people who are teaching them. As a result, they leave those places of education and they simply *repeat* what they have been taught.

Others mis-handle the Scripture unknowingly because they study it more with the natural mind than under the illumination of the Holy Spirit. The natural mind *can* understand many things the Scripture teaches. I've seen men who have a real talent for studying and understanding things, and they can explain the things they learn very well, including the things they learn from the Scripture. But sooner or later the natural mind will be baffled by what it reads in the Scripture because there are many ideas, concepts, and statements in the Bible that the natural mind will simply not be able to comprehend, or else they will lead the natural mind in the wrong direction.

A third kind of person who unknowingly mis-handles the Word of God is the one who has come under the influence of religious, seducing spirits—and of all the different kinds of people who mishandle the Scripture, this kind is the most dangerous because the one who is actually mishandling the Scripture is not the individual who is under that spirit, but the *spirit itself*. When a seducing spirit is perverting God's Word in a person's mind, you are dealing with more than just the human mind of that individual. You are dealing with a *supernatural* mind; a mind that is more brilliant, more crafty, much more persuasive, and much more powerful than the human mind.

When we come up against error that has been forged in the human mind, or which has come from *human* teachers and theologians, that's one thing. When we come up against error that has been forged in the supernatural minds of seducing spirits, that's a whole different ball game. In this case, we need to have the mind of the Spirit to detect and discern what is going on because it can be extremely deceptive.

The degree of deception these seducing spirits get people into depends on what kind of person they are, and what kind of deception the spirits are leading them into. The two items I looked at this week are examples of different *kinds* and different *levels* of deception. The first one is pretty blatant because the deception is in the realm of experience, and false experiences can be detected rather easily. But the second one is much more subtle and dangerous because it's in the realm of revelation and spiritual insight. The first item was a video of one of these false prophets/healers named John Crowder.

There's an interesting little web site out there—you may be familiar with it—it's called "[A Little Leaven](http://www.alittleleaven.com)" (<http://www.alittleleaven.com>). It keeps track of all the absurd and blasphemous things that are popular in "*Apostasy World*". I don't know where they get their information, but if you want to see the latest religious relics (ie: toys and trinkets) that are for sale, or if you want to know about the latest apostate church or pastor, that's the place to look. I check it out a few times a week. This week they had a link to a meeting where Mr. Crowder was the speaker.

I've seen articles about Mr. Crowder before on various Discernment ministry web sites, but I really don't know that much about the man. However, the videos explained all I needed to know. Since he is just another deceived revivalist, I wouldn't normally pay too much attention to him. But when the first video was over—his message had been broken down into like 10 or 12 shorter "You Tube" clips—I felt impressed to watch some more.

I forgot how good these people can be at not just mis-quoting passages of Scripture, but also at mis-applying true Scriptural principles, and even speaking truthfully about what God is doing right now in certain areas. It's pretty sobering. But since this guy was obviously manifesting another spirit, his mishandling of Scripture would not be dangerous for anyone who has spiritual discernment.

What I found interesting was a story he starts telling at the end of video clip # 3, and on into clip # 4, about a confrontation with some Satanists. After a meeting where some very powerful manifestations took place, he and some of the people from the church went for a walk in the park. In this park there was a group of young people who were having a Satan-worship service. I would like you to listen to this guy's story because *if* what he is saying actually happened, there is an interesting lesson to be learned from it.

Just by way of introduction, so you understand some of his remarks: Mr. Crowder is continually stoned "spiritually". He calls this condition the "ecstasy of God". This is his thing—it's what he's busy transferring to hundreds of thousands of people across this nation and the world. During his message he staggers back and forth like he is totally plastered and his eyes were hardly even opened.

As part of this whole spiritual life-style, he imitates the world of drugs and booze. He often stops to take an *imaginary* drink or an *imaginary* hit off a joint. In fact, during this story you are about to hear, he lights up an imaginary joint and takes a deep hit. Then he passed it to the guy on the floor, right in front of him. Then he tells the guy on the floor to pass it all around the audience. He then says that whoever breaks the chain is the one who needs deliverance. The guy on the floor proceeds to take a hit from the imaginary joint, and then he passes it on. It's all quite disgusting and hard to endure. So if you can't stomach it, hit the mute button or go get a sandwich or something.

The audio clip is about 8½ minutes.

How many of you in the room believe this guy's story? Let's just say for the sake of argument that what he described, really happened. If everyone in that group of Satan worshipers would have just scattered, then we could attribute what happened to *human* fear. We could say they probably never saw any "Christian" react to their mocking in such a bizarre way; and since they didn't know what they were dealing with and they didn't know how to handle it, they got scared and ran off.

But according to Mr. Crowder, that's not what happened. The power he moves in overpowered the power that those Satanists were moving in. Young people who were worshiping Satan just minutes prior, were suddenly under the power of Mr. Crowder's *counterfeit Christ*.

What does that tell you about the power of this Antichrist spirit? Well, it tells me that it's pretty strong—and it makes the passage in Revelation chapter 13 real, where John said: "...*the dragon gave him [Antichrist] his power, and his seat, and great authority*" (Rev. 13:2).

Satan has given the counterfeit Jesus that's deceiving multitudes of churches right now, *his* power and *his* seat and *his* authority. So when people start ministering that counterfeit Jesus or that counterfeit spirit to people in the churches, it's no different than having Satan himself walk through the door and begin to minister to the people.

Those young people in the park were worshiping the Dragon. But apparently they had not yet learned how to tap into the power of the Dragon. When they met Mr. Crowder, they came up against a man who *has* learned how to tap into the power of Antichrist. So his power was *greater* than their power. The result was that some of them were overcome and got "whacked" by his false Christ.

And let me just interject right here, for those who still think the "beast" in Revelation 13 is *only* an individual man, or that it's *only* a world government: John was specifically told by an angel that *this* beast will ascend out of the bottomless pit: "*And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition...*" (Rev. 17:7-8).

This means the beast is primarily a spiritual creature, for only spiritual creatures inhabit the bottomless pit. Men, organizations and governments do not reside in the bottomless pit. Satan is a spirit; Antichrist is a spirit; and the False Prophet is a spirit. Together they form a counterfeit, invisible "trinity". This is why Mr. Crowder's "*Buzz Evangelism*" works so well. If the spirit of Antichrist in him is strong enough to overpower a Satan worshiper, then it will surely be powerful enough to overpower the average sinner walking the streets of America.

The next deception was in an article I read, and it is much more subtle because it comes in the form of revelation, doctrine, and spiritual insight which contains a lot of truth, and which seems to be based solidly on the Word of God. It's not some wild or bizarre religious experience that's obviously unscriptural and ungodly. This is from an article written by the woman I mentioned the other week. Her name is Stella Paterson.

"The Life of Jesus can be found only in those who are truly born anew by His Spirit. It is about Life and death--**not sin**; and therefore **not the Law** which served to expose Israel's sinfulness through their disobedience! John explains the new birth with these words:

We know that whosoever is born of God does not sin; but he that is begotten of God keeps [Greek: 'to guard (from loss or injury, properly by keeping the eye upon')] him, and that wicked one touches him not.

I. John 5:18

There are some today who try to tell us the devil is able to cause a believer in Jesus to "sin," and that we should be fearful of his tactics. The Word of God tells us we are to fear God. **Never** does He ever tell us we should fear Satan. The Apostle Peter tells us:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

I. Peter 5:8-9

As John said, '*greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world*' (1 John 4:4). The "wicked one" cannot touch one who is "steadfast in the faith," which puts into effect the "resistance" spoken of above, because the One who dwells in us is far greater! In our own strength we are helpless and therefore susceptible to the enemy's plots. **We must keep in mind that flesh is the door through which Satan walks.** That is the reason he tricked man into the knowledge of good and evil and the resulting separation from the Life of God. Then Jesus, the Greater One, came in the likeness of sinful flesh and put flesh to death on our behalf--**thus destroying the works of the devil.**

The power of God in one who is truly and wholeheartedly committed to Christ through faith and by His Grace will overcome the enemy because of the One in whom he dwells, and Who dwells in him. The devil actually fears such true believers. . .

. . .The devil and his hordes are fearful of true believers because of the One who indwells us. **They cannot "touch" us**; Praise the Lord!!

Freedom From Bondage - A Vital Lesson

I don't know how many errors you detected in this one excerpt, but there are quite a few. I'm just going to touch on 2 or 3 of them. First of all, she believes that "sin" is no longer an issue—only life and death are the real issues, now that you are born again. There are several reasons why she believes sin is no longer an issue. I explained one of those reasons the other week—according to her, Jesus settled the sin issue once and for all at the Cross. He did away with sin by forgiving all sin. We don't actually have to *ask* for forgiveness when we repent and come to Christ. We only have to *accept* that forgiveness when we believe.

The truth is, Jesus did not forgive all sin at the Cross. He made *atonement for* all sin at the Cross. There is a big difference. The Lord only forgives our individual sin when we repent and ask forgiveness for those sins. In addition, He only forgives the "*sins that are past*" when we are initially born again. This is made clear by Paul in the book of Romans:

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Romans 3:24-25

Mrs. Paterson's view, while not identical to the error of many Evangelical pastors who preach the Eternal Security delusion, certainly falls in line with error they preach, which is that when we come to Jesus, He forgives our past, present and future sins. In both cases, the end result is the same—we don't have to worry about sin, once we are born again. This is a direct denial of what John said:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

I. John 1:7-10

John said very plainly that if we (Christians) confess our sins, Jesus will “forgive us our sins”. That's present tense talk, my friends. If all the sin of the Christian (past, present and future) was forgiven at Calvary, like so many preachers claim, then Christians would not have to confess their sins or be forgiven for them when they sinned. Now what “spirit” do you think it is that wants to stop people from confessing their sins and seeking forgiveness for them?

The other reason she believes sin is no longer an issue is because she thinks sin only has to do with “law”. She says: “It's about life and death--**not sin**; and therefore **not the Law** which served to expose Israel's sinfulness...”. You would have to read her other articles to get the complete picture of what she teaches about the sin and the law. So I will give you some quotes that make the picture clear:

“In 1 John 3:4, we are told, “Every one that does sin does also lawlessness: and sin is lawlessness [Greek: violation of law].” We must follow this with Paul's words from Romans 5:13: “For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.” **If Jesus fulfilled the Law so that sin is not imputed, how does asking forgiveness for sins make us a new creation in Christ?”**

Gospel According To Jesus

“The Hebrew word translated “forgive” means “forgive.” [She says the Greek word translated forgive does NOT mean forgive]. While Jesus walked on this earth, the Jews were still under the Law. They understood forgiveness according to their Hebrew language and how the blood atonement preceded forgiveness. Jesus used the word “forgiveness,” and in some instances Paul and others would use the word “forgiveness.” **But in both cases, they were addressing the Jews – not Gentiles.”**

Forgiveness, Repentance And The New Birth

"In the New Testament, the word "sin" and its synonyms (according to the translators) are used only 242 times. At the same time, the words "faith" and "believe" and their synonyms (according to the translators) are used 560 times. This alone tells us where the emphasis should be, according to God Almighty. Many of the references to "sin" are found in passages where Pharisees and Jews are being addressed, and where Paul is exhorting those at Rome regarding the Law. **Keep in mind that sin is "the transgression of the Law" and "where no law is, there is no transgression."** (1 John 3:4; Romans 4:15)

The Deadliest Sin

"To understand Grace, we must first understand the Law of Moses and its role in the lives of God's people Israel. The Law has no place in the lives of believers in Jesus - the One who brought Grace and Truth. (John 1:17) As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:56, "*The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*" (**We must keep in mind that "death" came in the Garden of Eden with the knowledge of good and evil.**)

The remainder of the above passage tells us that in reconciling the world unto Himself, Jesus was not reckoning unto them their trespasses. The Greek word for "reckoning" is defined as "*taking an inventory.*" Jesus had no thought in mind as to the sins against Moses' Law, or the sins of anyone for that matter. **It is no longer about the transgression of any law.** The glorious truth is that Jesus came to take away the ordinances of the Law, **nailing them to His Cross**, so that the Jews would no longer have anything against them. And they, along with the Gentiles, could have Life.

Where there is no Law to transgress, there is no need for "forgiveness of sins."

Forgiveness - When And Why

"Sin" is not the issue

The present-day gospel focuses so much on sins that people have become paranoid and fearful of "sinning" even after they have "received Jesus into their heart." Well, the preacher SAID they received Jesus when they asked Him to forgive their sins, but did they? This has resulted in a lot of confusion among church people who believe they are Christians. They look around and see other "Christians" who do not measure up to "church" standards. **Because of this, there is a lot of judging going on.** What is the underlying problem? I believe we need to understand "sin" according to God's Word.

Jesus settled the sin issue on the Cross. He was "*manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*" (Hebrews 9:26b) In Colossians 2:13-15, Paul said, "*And you, being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, you, I say, did he quicken together with him, having forgiven [Greek: pardoned/rescued] us all our trespasses; having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and he hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; having put off from himself the principalities and the powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*"

That is the good news – that is the gospel! **Jesus made a final triumph over sin by nailing to his Cross the ordinances of the Law.** The Bible tells us that sin is the "*transgression of the Law.*" (1 John 3:4b) **We are also told that where there is no law, there can be no transgression of the law.** (Romans 4:15) Then in Romans 5:13, Paul said "*until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*"

False Gospel Exposed

If you didn't catch the dangerous errors in these quotes, then download the notes and go over them again. Mrs. Paterson is not the only one who is teaching this kind of error. It's found throughout the Church System, being part of the whole "Grace Plus Nothing" theology. She has been deceived into thinking that "sin" only has to do with law, and so where there is no law, there can be no transgression of the law (ie: sin). In her mind, Jesus "settled the sin issue [for everyone] on the Cross". He hung the law, and all the sin that comes from breaking that law, on the Cross with Himself.

Anyone who has any knowledge of the New Testament should have detected at least one glaring error in those quotes. She said: "*Jesus used the word 'forgiveness' and in some instances Paul and others would use the word 'forgiveness'. But in both cases, they were addressing the Jews—not Gentiles.*"

Oh really? Were the Ephesian and Colossian believers Jews? To the Ephesians, Paul said: "*In whom we have redemption through his blood, **the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace*" (1:7). To the Colossians, he said: "*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even **the forgiveness of sins***" (1:13-14); and again: "*And you, [Gentile Colossians] being dead in **your sins** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having **forgiven you all trespasses***" (2:13).

Excuse me, but exactly what "trespasses" were the **GENTILE** believers in the **PAGAN** cities of Ephesus and Colosse forgiven of? Certainly not trespasses against the **JEWISH** law! The apostle John said: "*I write unto you, little children, because **your sins are forgiven** you for his name's sake*" (1. John 2:12). Was John really talking to "Jews" in this letter? Or was he talking to all the believers who had repented and believed—both Jew and Gentile?

The problem with this woman's revelation is that it came from a seducing spirit—and *the goal* of that spirit is to *ignore* the whole issue of sin! She doesn't want to talk about sin, especially when talking about sin causes you to "judge" others. She doesn't want the gospel message to focus on sin because people who worry about sin end up looking at other Christians who do not measure up to church standards; and because of this, there is a lot of "judging" going on. Her focus is on life and death, not on sin and righteousness. But it's pretty hard to talk about "death" without talking about "sin"—since it is sin that causes death. What was it that Paul said: "*The wages of sin is death...*" (Rom. 6:23). And again: "*Know ye not, that to whom ye [believers] **yield** yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether **of sin unto death**, or of obedience unto righteousness?*" (Rom. 6:16).

Do you think Paul was talking to just to Jews when he made these statements? Or was he talking to everyone, Jew and Gentile? I hate to break the news to this poor woman, but sin is still an important issue—a *very* important issue—because you don't need the Law of Moses to sin. The Bible defines sin as more than just a transgression against the law. People sinned before the Law, during the law, and after the Law (was nailed to the Cross). The fact that people sin, regardless of whether or not there is a law to transgress, is made clear by the fact that we all still **DIE**. Death is *the result* of sin—not the result of the knowledge of good and evil, but the result of **SIN**. Paul makes it clear that even when there is *no law*, people still die because they still sin, and sin brings death.

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and **death by sin**; and so **death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned**: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless **death reigned from Adam to Moses**, even over them that had not sinned **after the similitude of Adam's transgression**, who is the figure of him that was to come.*

Romans 5:12-14

Sin brings death—this is a kingdom law that can never be breached. Paul didn't say that before the law there was no sin. He said the before the law, sin was not imputed. That means it was not held to our account. But even though sin was not being reckoned to us, it was still **KILLING** us!

Death reigned from Adam to Moses because death is the *result* of sin. As Paul said: *...death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*". People were sinning from Adam to Moses, and the result was death. Sin is more than just the breaking of the Law of Moses. When referring to doing things that defile our conscience, Paul said: *"...he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin"* (Rom. 14:23). Speaking of Speaking of Paul said: The apostle James said: *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"* (James 4:17). John said: *"All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death"* (John 5:16-17).

This woman's view of sin and forgiveness is *demonic*. It came from a seducing spirit that has her believing she doesn't have to ask forgiveness for her sins, and that she doesn't even have to worry about sinning because Jesus did away with the law, and He has already forgiven all her sins. If she stays true to the revelation she has received from this spirit, she's going to weep bitterly when she stands before the Lord because she will have a massive pile of *unforgiven* sins to answer for!

Another part of her deception concerns her view of the enemy. She says: "There are some today who try to tell us the devil is able to cause a believer in Jesus to 'sin', and that we should be fearful of his tactics". She said this after quoting I. John 5:18:

*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God **keepeth himself**, and **that wicked one toucheth him not**.*

I. John 5:18

This is one of the verses that people who are afraid to face the enemy use to say he can't hurt them. I mean, how could the enemy hurt you if he can't even "touch" you? Then she quotes the apostle Peter:

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: **whom resist steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

I. Peter 5:8-9

She goes on to say: “As John said, ‘greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world’ (1 John 4:4). The ‘wicked one’ cannot touch one who is ‘steadfast in the faith’...”. There is just one little problem. Being in the place where the enemy cannot overcome you is not an automatic thing. John said he that “keepeth himself” will not be overcome. Also, the word “touch” in the English means more than to simply touch. The Greek is much stronger. It means to lay hold of, or to grasp. John is talking about the enemy being able to get a firm grip on our lives the same way he did *before* we were born again.

The crux of the deception this woman is in, revolves around the *false assurance* and *false security* she lives in. She is convinced that she loves God so much, and that she is so loyal to Him, she will never sin. In an article entitled, [Insulting The Spirit Of Grace](#), she writes: “...if we have the Spirit of Grace living in us, **we have no desire to ‘sin’** because Grace is at work in us”.

In another article entitled, [The False Gospel Exposed](#), she writes: “In those who have been truly born anew, there is a deep knowing of the presence of God in their life. The Love of God permeates their being to the degree that they have a longing for all that He is. **There is no desire, or even a thought of sinning.** There is no fear because perfect Love casts out all fear. There is only Life, because Eternal Life has come to dwell in them”.

You can be sure that these kinds of statements are more than just theological positions for this woman. She truly believes she is living in that place. This is why “sin” is a non-issue for her. Not only does she have no desire to sin, she is quite sure that her position in Christ has brought her to the place where Satan will never be able to even *touch* her, much less harm her or—God forbid—destroy her!

As I said in other chat sessions, there is a condition to be met if we want to be in that place where the enemy cannot grasp hold of us and hurt us. One of those conditions is that the person keeps himself. That is, keeps himself safe *by* walking in obedience. That is, keeps himself safe *by* doing the things God said we must do in order to be kept safe by Him.

Lot’s of people assume or presume they are doing the things God requires to keep them safe, but they aren’t. I wonder what measuring line this woman is using to judge herself? I’ll bet that measuring line is feelings. I’d wager that she’s judging her own spiritual condition by how close she **FEELS** to God, or by how much she **FEELS** she loves Him.

Finally she says: “The devil and his hordes **are fearful of true believers** because of the One who indwells us. **They cannot “touch” us; Praise the Lord!**” Oh yes, the Devil really fears Christians. You can see that fear clearly in John’s vision, where the Dragon is standing before the Church (*the Woman clothed with the Sun*), just waiting to devour the overcoming remnant she will give birth to, before they get a chance to reach that heavenly realm! Can’t you just see the fear in the Dragon’s eyes as he spews that flood out of his mouth to try and carry the Woman away, after she gives birth to the manchild, and she *flees* in to the wilderness. Excuse me, but it’s the Church who is *fleeing* from the face of the Dragon, not the other way around! And can’t you just see the fear in the Dragon’s face as he goes off enraged, to make war with the remnant of the woman’s seed.

The only thing Satan fears is the pure Spirit of God. Unfortunately, there isn’t enough of the Spirit of God being manifested in most of today’s Christians to scare off even the weakest demon. And I can assure you

that Satan has absolutely no fear of the woman who is writing this nonsense because he and his hordes have done a lot more than “touch” her; they have completely deceived her. I am going to give you her web site address so you can check her writings out for yourself. Don’t just trust what I say. Check it out for yourself. The name of the site is: “Ekklesia4him”. The address is: <http://www.ekkleisia4him.net/>

Like I said before, she also has a lot of good things to say in her articles; a lot of truth. That’s what makes her so dangerous. In the midst of all that truth, there is this *fundamental error* about sin and forgiveness that turns the true gospel on its head and makes it a *false* gospel. So what you have to decide is if this woman is really walking by the true Spirit of God, but simply needs some major doctrinal adjustments; or if she is actually being led by a *false* Christ, who is giving her a lot of good truth mixed in with that error, to make sure she stays deceived.

Actually, this is the *real point* I want to get to tonight. I was talking to a sister yesterday and she made a comment that was very perceptive. She said those of us who have discernment, who can see what’s happening right now, tend to get a little bit hyper-sensitive when we listen to others speak or when we read what they write. It’s almost like we are constantly looking for any little bit of error in order to discount what is being said or written by that person and label them a false prophet. I know this is true because it’s something I have had to fight over the years.

There is a difference between someone having an *incomplete* understanding of the Scripture, and one who is purposely distorting it. There is a difference between, for example, someone who is young in the Lord, getting some passage wrong, and false teachers perverting Scripture to promote false doctrine. In addition, sometimes people read the Scripture and get a wrong understanding because of the way they have been taught in their church, or because they are reading it with just the natural mind. Also, many people are just now coming out of the Religious System and they are bringing a lot of theological baggage with them. They must be given time to sort out the truth from the error. Not everyone we disagree with doctrinally is a false prophet. Not everyone we disagree with is walking under the influence of a seducing spirit. I’m sure there are some in this room who disagree with some of the things I’ve taught. I have other people I fellowship with who disagree with me on certain points. I don’t just go around assuming that anyone who disagrees with me is walking in deception or is a false believer.

So there is a right way, and there are *multiple* wrong ways to approach the situation where people hold views that are different from ours. One way is to instantly separate from everyone who doesn’t agree with you—in which case you will quickly find yourself alone. You’re probably not going to find anyone who agrees with you in every area, at least not right off the bat. That kind of unity only comes after years of walking with someone in the Spirit and hashing things out.

Another way to deal with those who disagree with you is to just accept everyone and have fellowship with everyone, *regardless* of whether or not they agree with you—in which case you will find yourself walking under the influence of other spirits, and quite possibly end up in deception.

Another way is to make yourself a list of doctrines that you consider to be fundamental, non-negotiable points of the Christian faith, which you will not compromise on. Then, as long as people don’t pervert or deny those fundamental doctrines, you can have fellowship with them. But those who mess with them or deny them, you will separate from.

Yet another way—which I believe is the best way—is to have the kind of *discernment* that can tell whether or not a person is following the Spirit of God, or whether there they are following a *mixture* of the Spirit of God and some *other* spirit. If they are basically following the Spirit of God, then even if they have problems, even if they have a wrong doctrine here or there, even if they have an incomplete understanding of some issue or even the Scripture, it does not mean they are a false prophet or spiritually dangerous.

We Christians are often wrong, you know. We often make mistakes. We all have problems. We all have to grow up in Christ. We all have to mature in our understanding of the Scripture, and of God, and His ways. Therefore, we must leave room for mistakes and errors in our brethren. This gives us a chance to extend the love and mercy of God to others.

But when you have a person who is following a *mixture* of the Spirit of God and another spirit, or even worse, if they are following *fully* another spirit that is calling itself the Spirit of God, then this is a whole different story. I don't care what kind of doctrine that person has or what kind of spiritual understanding they possess, they are dangerous because they are feeding off of a *wrong* source; off a wrong spirit.

There is a fundamental difference between these two kinds of people. A person who is spiritually dangerous can hold correct doctrinal positions. Also, a person who is not spiritually dangerous can be following wrong doctrines. So you can't just go around judging people by their doctrine. It's the source that makes ALL the difference. Are they actually following the Spirit of God? If they are, then you have to cut them some slack. They will probably have problems; they will probably have some wrong doctrine, or at least disagree with you in some areas.

But if they are not following the Spirit of God, that a whole different ball game. You don't have to cut them any slack. If you do, you are going to get in trouble. This is where we have to be as wise as serpents. This is where we have to have sharp discernment. If you treat a dangerous person like someone who just needs to grow spiritually, you are playing with a deadly fire. If you treat a person who just needs to grow spiritually as a dangerous person, you can cause terrible damage to them. So ask God to teach you how to recognize the **SOURCE** of things.