

Rise Up And Build

"So They said, 'Let us rise up and build,' Then they set their hands to do this good work," Neh. 2:18

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Satan's Tactics To Promote Immorality

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We have looked at various forms of immorality that are frequently practiced in the world. Homosexuality, adultery, drunkenness, immodest dress, gambling, abortion, and pornography are not only practiced by many people, but also most of these sinful acts are looked upon as normal for all ages and both sexes. These sins are also accepted by many people who claim to be Christians. How does Satan work to bring these sins into our lives? His primary tool is the **lie**. *"He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie he speaketh it of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it"* (John 8:44).

Some sharp contrasts exist between Satan's standards and God's standards. Satan has many standards, and they vary from generation to generation and from situation to situation. Not so with the God of heaven. He has one standard for morality. It does not change with the passing of generations; it does not change from situation to situation; it does not change from one part of the world to another. Satan's standards are relative—never absolute. Jehovah's standards are absolute — never relative. God's standard is His word — His will. That will is found in the Bible and the Bible only. His standard is one of righteousness. This is right doing, that is preceded by right thinking. The Bible says in Proverbs 4:23, *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* Solomon wrote, *"for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"* (Prov. 23:7).

Devilish Standards For Morality

1. One of the hideous schemes of Satan is familiarity. We can reach the point where we are not disturbed by any or all of these perverse acts. Seeing these sins from day to day, we can become accustomed to them or become comfortable around them. They can then more easily worm their way into our lives or the lives of our loved one and souls will be lost. Familiarity causes relaxation. Our guard drops, and we fall into

Satan's trap.

We **must** fight back. We must not get comfortable in a world of sin. We must be like Lot who was *"vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. For that righteous man dwelling among them in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds"* (2 Peter 12:7-8). Preachers, elders, and Bible class teachers must teach the truth on these evils and keep Christians from relaxing in this sin-filled environment.

2. Satan will also use our families, friends, and loved ones to soften our attitude toward worldliness. Sometimes children or grand children become involved in one or more of these sins and attitudes that once stood firm begin to weaken. Satan is successful especially in the sin of the modern dance and immodest dress through this avenue. We must not let the world set our standard. Compromise in any of these sins will not help bring them out of this sin, but rather will encourage them in it. Teachers of God's word must not fail to send a clear message, so all will be warned and souls will be saved. We must use principles and examples of both the Old and New Testaments to establish what is right and urge all of the members of God's family to abide in the teaching. When people allow their children to sow wild oats, they seldom think about the fruit that those wild oats will produce. Often the fruit is drunkenness, fornication, unwanted pregnancy, death by a drug overdose, and a lost soul.

3. Another tactic used by Satan is time. He leads us to believe we have plenty of time; therefore if we choose to engage in some particular sin, we will have time to repent. In fact, some people commit sin with a full knowledge of what they are doing, but intend to participate for a little while, then quit. Consequences and influences are forgotten.

King David could have had this attitude when he committed adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11). However, sin is addictive in nature; it has consequences. When we sow to the flesh we will reap a harvest. *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting"* (Gal. 6:7-8). The deception is that man thinks he can sow one kind of life and reap another kind. One fact about sowing and reaping is that we reap more than we sow, and another is that the fruit is not fully realized until sometime in the future.

4. Another standard of the devil is eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die. This was a part of the Epicurean philosophy that Paul met while in Athens in Greece. Paul referred to this Satanic philosophy in his great resurrection chapter of I Corinthians 15:32 by saying, *"If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die."* Paul said we should embrace this Satanic doctrine only if it be the case that the dead rise not. This doctrine would only be a safe one to follow if there were no God in heaven, no Christ on David's throne, no Holy Spirit, no Bible, no judgement, and no eternal existence. But there **is** a God, Christ **is** on David's throne, the Holy Spirit **is** the Spirit of truth, the Bible **is** God's word, there **will be** a final judgment and a never ending eternity. This doctrine is not a safe standard in the determining of one's morals and

ethics.

5. Another devilish standard is do our own thing. The same practice is as old as the race. Cain did his own thing and look where it got him. The wicked people of Noah's day did their own thing, and look where they were when the great flood came. Jezebel and Ahab did their own thing and look where that landed them. Herod and Herodias did their own thing in the first century. So did Judas Iscariot. So did many others in Bible times. It was called by a different name then but the appetites were the same and the manner of fulfilling them was the same basically as now. Acceptance of this makes a god out of self. It rejects God above and makes society simply a device to minister to the desires of selfishness. What kind of world would we be able to build if everyone followed this pagan philosophy of doing his own thing? We would live in a jungle of human lusts and human violence.

6. Categorizing sins is another maneuver used by Satan. He deceives us into thinking that the sins **we** and our loved ones commit are trivial. We tend to categorize sins as others do. Those viewed as less harmful are tolerated while more harmful ones are condemned. Of course, the sin that **we** are committing is a "trivial" sin and we truly do not like to refer to it as sin. Watching filthy movies or televisions shows are acceptable, but if a brother goes to a strip bar or a nude club, then he is a vile reprobate. What is really worse, watching someone strip on a screen or a stage? We must recognize sin for what it is and seek to destroy its influence in our lives and the lives of those around us. *"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 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"* (Rom. 12:1,2).

Satan promises the new morality of situation ethics. The movement is misnamed. What they offer is not moral but highly immoral. What they propose is not a system of real ethics at all, but a glossing over of that which is sinful, that which is highly immoral. The New Moralist does not accept at all the notion that there is a moral standard which is revealed by God. He does not believe that God laid down laws which are for all men, at all time, under all conditions. Each person in every situation defines his own concept of love and whether any suggested action would serve that love at all. This "new morality" or "situation ethics" is seeking to groom America for a "no sin" society and is getting closer to success all the time.

The sly strategy of Satan and his disciples toward helping our troubled nation achieve the "no sin" society is being promoted by telling people (1) that everybody is doing it, and you are an odd ball if you do not join the bandwagon. (2) No one will ever know. (3) You are chicken if you do not join in with this fleshly activity. (4) You do not know what you are missing by being a hold-out. (5) You will not know the difference one hundred years from now. (6) You only live once. (7) You are only young for such a short time and youth is a time to play it up—do your own thing — to have your own fling. (8) Nobody's perfect—surely it is not wrong to satisfy a God-instilled appetite.

Who is the proper one to determine this set of morals, this system of ethics? The

One Who made us. The One before Whom we shall one day stand in judgment. God alone determines the standard for morality for men and women, for boys and girls. Those who live by the devil's standard will be with him in eternity; those who live by Jehovah's standards will be with Him in eternity. "*Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people*" (Prov. 14:36).

"Although God created man without man's help, He will not save man without man's consent."

"Love is the one commodity the more of which you give the more you have."