

1 Timothy 4 - Doctrines of Devils

December 3, 2015

1 Timothy 4:1-6

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.



Colossians 2:8-10 NAS

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy (*philosophia* - love and pursuit of wisdom) and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

Colossians 2:18–19 NAS

18 **Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,**
19 **and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.**

Paul identifies 3 variations of spiritual error and false doctrine:

1. **Human Philosophy - embracing Christian ideals without embracing Christ, “good” is many times the enemy of “God”**

Psychology and humanism wrapped in spiritual terminology. Snippets of truth create immediate excitement, temporary relief and a humanistic pride, but have no eternal value of honoring or pleasing God.

“...philosophy - empty deception - the tradition of men - the elementary principles of the world...” Col 2:8

“A growing corps of researchers thinks they have it. Forgiveness — a virtue embraced by almost every religious tradition as a balm for the soul — might be medicine for the body, they suggest. In less than a decade, those preaching and studying forgiveness have amassed an impressive slate of findings on its possible health benefits.

They have shown that “forgiveness interventions” — often just a couple of short sessions in which the wounded are guided toward positive feelings for an offender — can improve cardiovascular function, diminish chronic pain, relieve depression and boost quality of life among the very ill.

*Those more inclined to pardon the transgressions of others have been found to have lower blood pressure, fewer depressive symptoms and, once they hit late middle age, better overall mental and physical health than those who do not forgive easily.”
Melissa Healy, Los Angeles Times*

“The next time you find yourself in a tough situation, try to take a step back and think about your emotional response to the situation and how you frame the problem in the context of your life story. Remember, resilience is learned and cultivated through life experiences, and learning, particularly about ourselves, is a lifelong process.” Dawn C. Carr MGS, Ph.D., Psychology Today

“Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche was a German philosopher, cultural critic, poet, and Latin and Greek scholar whose work has exerted a profound influence on Western philosophy and modern intellectual history.”

“You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way,

and the only way, it does not exist.” Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

“That quote is attributed to the German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche. Actually, he said it much more eloquently: “That which does not kill us, makes us stronger.” It turns out that he was right.

Studies have shown that some trauma survivors report positive changes and enhanced personal development, called post traumatic growth (PTG). PTG refers to any beneficial change resulting from a major life crisis or traumatic event, but people most commonly experience a positive shift by having a renewed appreciation for life; adopting a new world view with new possibilities for themselves; feeling more personal strength; feeling more satisfied spiritually, and/or their relationships improve.” Debbie Hampton, The Best Brain Possible

2. Asceticism

The pride of spiritual elitism, harsh discipline, will-worship, self-control. It can create the self-righteousness of, “no one is as committed, sacrificial, or spiritual as I am.”

“...forbidding to marry - commanding to abstain from meats - delighting in self-abasement...” Col 2:18, 1 Tim 4

Matthew 6:16

"Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: **for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast.** Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

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“The Catholic tradition of consecrated celibacy is supposed to threaten that debased cultural imperative and provide a counter-witness to the mere selfish indulgence of appetite that our consumerist society promotes. A civilization founded on the worship of pleasure is a civilization on a fast track toward ceasing to be a civilization. And an “argument” against celibacy that boils down to “Me want sex now” is not an

argument but something more like the grunt of an animal.

Paul's basic concern is that to be married is to be distracted from the spiritual:

The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord; but the married man is anxious about worldly affairs, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried woman or girl is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit; but the married woman is anxious about worldly affairs, how to please her husband (1 Cor. 7:32-34).

Though he is concerned about that division of heart, Paul denies that marriage is a sin. He merely insists that it is a lesser state in life than consecrated celibacy: "So that he who marries his betrothed does well; and he who refrains from marriage will do better" (1 Cor. 7:38).

Paul gets this thinking neither from the Dark Ages nor as the result of repression but from a consecrated virgin named Jesus of Nazareth. He, like Paul, was unmarried and commended consecrated celibacy as a gift of God." Mark P. Shea, www.catholic.com

3. **Mysticism**

The pride of exclusive knowledge; knowledge that others either don't possess or can't access.

"...the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind..." Col 2:18 / 1 Tim 4:3

Colossians 2:18 NAS

"Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and **the worship** (*threskeía* - religion) **of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind.**"

Invoking the help of angels, as well as understanding the hierarchy and ranking of angels was a popular trend at this time. Some even thought they could or had to approach God through the mediation of angels.

Acts 7:53 NAS "...you who received the law as ordained by angels..."

Hebrews 1:4 "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."