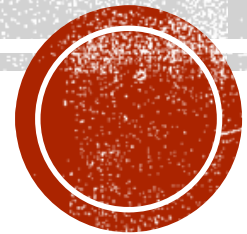


WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

“THE SPIRIT OF MANIPULATION”

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INTRODUCTION

- Nothing Can Impact One's Soundness of Mind Like a Manipulating or Controlling Spirit or Person
- Topics of Discussion
 - Church Manipulation
 - Witchcraft
 - Manipulating and the Spirit of Manipulation



- **NOTE: THIS MESSAGE IS FOR A MORE MATURE AUDIENCE**



MANIPULATION AND A MANIPULATIVE SPIRIT

- There is always a “Natural” propensity to do something as well as an Oppressive Spirit, “Pressing” upon an Individual in such a way to control them
- Some people are naturally controlling, always endeavoring to be in control out of fear, to gain advantage, to have their own way
- Yet there is a manipulative spirit, sometimes utilizing other people that oppresses our spirit in an effort to deceive, distract, control, and incapacitate
- Manipulation and Passiveness go hand in hand. The Spirit of Manipulation relies upon the passivity of the person one wishes to manipulate
- The Manipulative person or spirit seeks to control people or circumstances to one’s own advantage
- **Manipulation is a type of oppression**
 - the exercise of authority or power in a burdensome, cruel, or unjust manner
 - **Emotional upheaval** such as regular outbursts of anger, high and low emotional levels, self-justification, fear, hopelessness, abnormal fixations, etc



HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

- Produces a negative pattern of thinking
- Make you Indecisive and doubleminded
- Keeps you from having a sound, calm, well-disciplined mind
- Fear and Anxiety
- Can get you out of your faith
- Deception & Distraction
- Separation from God – i.e. The serpent and Eve
- One who is being controlled feels the loss of personal identity and self-esteem



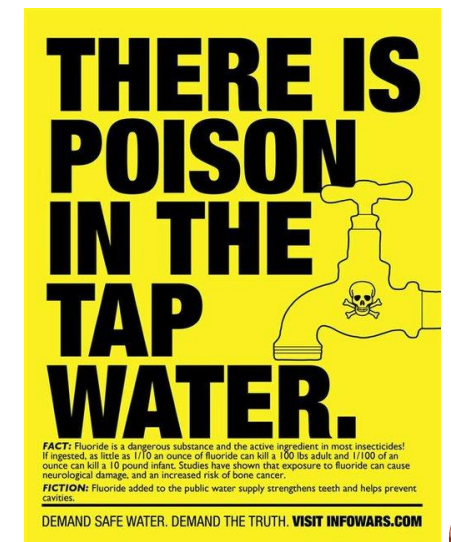
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE MANIPULATED

- To be manipulated is to allow another person to dictate your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors
 - You allow others to have control over you, rather than allowing God to control you
- The dictionary tells us that the word “manipulate” means: to control or influence somebody/something in a skillful way, often in a dishonest way so that they do not realize it; esp. to manipulate people’s feelings.
- God wants your mind to be controlled by the Spirit
 - **Romans 8:6: If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace**



WORLD'S SYSTEM MANIPULATION

- Governments, Political parties, Charities, the Media, Educational System and Terrorist groups & nations – all of them are well-schooled in the art of manipulation.
- They know how to bring the deepest fears out of human beings.



WORLD/SOCIETY MANIPULATION

- The World manipulates through distraction: **Don't look at this, but look at this.**
 - He who controls the information, controls the people
 - Remember the Media is only owned and controlled by a few people
- The dumbing down of humanity is represented by another shift which occurs in the brain when we watch television. Activity in the higher brain regions (such as the neo-cortex) is diminished, while activity in the lower brain regions (such as the limbic system) increases.
 - This makes us more vulnerable to TV programmers and lessens our ability to discern truth from reality
 - In Other Words: Society becomes as “Dumb” as sheep
 - The Same is true of our school system
- This is why the Christian message enflames both sides of the political arena who want you to trust in Government more than God.



BEING CONTROLLED BY FALSE INFORMATION

FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BETTER

Squealer from Animal Farm (Author: George Orwell)

Squealer was a character from the book “Animal Farm,” which reflects how if we are not careful, we can be deceived by factions, parties, movements, and such if we put our trust in “twisted truth.”

Squealer aligns himself with the other animals by pretending to be more interested in their well-being than his own. Squealer positions himself as the keeper of knowledge who is essential for the animals of Manor Farm to understand his leader’s grand design.

Squealer is such an effective mouthpiece for his leadership who is abusing and misleading the people by not only being able to manipulate language to suit his leader’s needs, but he is able to gauge the temperament of his audience and alter his message to fit their current moods, becoming successful in the deception of the people.

Through the character of Squealer, Orwell demonstrates the dangerous power of propaganda in manipulating people to the point where they are no longer able to recognize the truth and must blindly accept whatever their government, and its mouthpiece, sees fit to tell them.

Psalms 146:3 - Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no help.

Psalms 118:9 - It is better to trust the LORD than to put confidence in princes (those who say they can help us).



WITCHCRAFT

- Witchcraft is the practice of magic or sorcery usually focused on three things: **MANIPULATION, INTIMIDATION, and DOMINATION.**
 - Manipulation tries to override a person's decision and to lead them away from God to utilize powers that are forbidden by God. That is why Rebellion and witchcraft go hand in hand
 - **1st Samuel 15:23: For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.**
- God defines witchcraft as sorcery, fortune-telling, dream interpretation, idol worship, etc., which He says is forbidden ... Exodus 22:18 states death is the punishment for witchcraft. All God's commands are given to protect us not to force us to Follow the Leader - God gave us free will.
- Most magical herbs, roots and accoutrements are for influence spells, persuasion spells and control spells and are often household items
- Witchcraft draws its victims with the idea that they will get power to control others.



WITCHCRAFT

- The agenda of witchcraft manipulation is to weaken, overpower and destroy the children of the Living God. Some Christians are presently suffering attacks in one form or the other from witchcraft practitioners.
- **“Magick (sorcery)**
Manipulation and control of people, nature, and circumstances through the knowledge and control of the spirit world...
- It is wise to be familiar with the nature of these attacks so as to overcome them.



EXAMPLE: SIMON THE SORCERER

- Acts 8: 14-24 – Simon the Sorcerer desired the Gift of the Holy Spirit
- Simon only wanted the gift as a manner to control who to give the gift to, not the gift and what God had purposed for in his life
- Simon would later start his own churches using a mixture of the Apostle's teaching and sorcery. Even today this is still happening as many ministers are making money and manipulating people through what may be spectacular giftings, but artificial requiring money and loyalty in order to obtain. Some are even selling herbs and health products
- You have artificially healed my people... Jeremiah chapter 6:14 and 8:11
- Ezekiel 34 - By "playing" church, God's people have been robbed, abused, and misled and fallen prey to the enemy
- Use of their "giftings" to manipulate and control the people
- Usually ends with people hurt, bruised, and in despair



CHURCH WITCHCRAFT

- When one turns to the Lord Jesus Christ, the last place we should expect to find manipulation is in the church. Yet, it is rampant.
- **Born Again Witch: Witches at a Pentecostal Church – Sensing the Energy**
- Read more at <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/agora/2015/07/born-again-witch-witches-at-a-pentecostal-church-sensing-the-energy/#G0EjIT1HfDKSxeFW.99>
- **Avoid, Avoid, Avoid-** Don't dabble with the occult, eastern mysticism or any practices that involves mediums, psychic, or metaphysics
 - You are in error if you believe you can control it
 - Even occult amulets, jewelry, or statues can have influence upon you without you being able to discern what is going on (i.e blue needles, idols)



EXAMPLES OF CHURCH MANIPULATION AND CONTROL

- Pressuring you to hold loyalties to your church or your pastor above your loyalties to your spouse or your immediate or extended family
- The controlling leader will confuse loyalty to himself or his ministry as faithfulness to God
- Elitism - Spiritually abusive church leaders also encourage their members to believe that this particular church is better than others, and perhaps the only acceptable church within hundreds of miles
- Is It Unity or Is It Uniformity? This uniformity is often presented as unity, but it is a false unity, a unity of image only. Forces group loyalty using Shame and Guilt
- Some people in manipulative groups will also take on the role of guards, who protect the leader from dissenters by jumping in and defending the leader or the accepted doctrines whenever someone questions them.



CHURCH WITCHCRAFT

- Churches may also use "false worship" to work people up emotionally to get them to give or follow blindly. They may also use false doctrine and ideology.
- Compelling stories such as "God will kill me if I don't collect \$___ or my son." Is also a form of manipulation
 - Having Certain "giving lines" can be a form of manipulation and control



WHAT TO DO TO AVOID MANIPULATION AND CONTROL

- Know your Word
- Discern by the Spirit and the Word the Actions of those you are leading you or in relationship with you
 - “Test the Spirits...” (1st John 4:1)
- Learn to Respond not React
- If unsure, seek assistance and prayer from someone you trust and respect



QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Is what I am being compelled to do by the Spirit of God, or I feel compelled to please this person or leader?
- Who is getting the glory for my actions?
- How does what is said or requested make me feel?
 - Do you feel exhorted or guilt if you don't perform
 - Am I responding in faith or fear of being "left out"
 - Should I question the validity of what the minister is saying? (For example, a minister said that God would kill his Son if he didn't collect \$186K that night)
 - How have I felt later after I left the influence of the service about what I committed to do? (After the music plays)
- Is what the Minister offering biblical (i.e. the mantle)?



I HAVE EXPERIENCED CHURCH MANIPULATION

- How did it make me feel?
- Confusion and Blind loyalty - never questioning, but following, not knowing if I was following God or my leader. I knew God was not the author of confusion, but I knew that not to follow meant I was in rebellion to the group
- Emotionally Draining
- I was used and agreed to the manipulation of others
- I never discerned or questioned the "spiritual gifting" (i.e. Prophecy)
- I confused Uniformity with Unity
- I was truly broken when the acts of manipulation were revealed to me

