

Last week we learned how all of Satan's schemes are rooted in deceit. We then looked at one of the ways that Satan deceives. We compared and contrasted what Satan sells as wisdom with true wisdom from God. The underlying principle was that Satan's wisdom (worldly wisdom) deceives while God's wisdom reveals.

1. Satan's wisdom deceives people into mistaking knowledge for wisdom and knowledge makes man arrogant. God's wisdom reveres the Lord and humbles man.

2. Satan's wisdom deceives people into believing the Gospel is foolishness. Godly wisdom reveals the foolishness of the world's wisdom.

3. Satan's wisdom deceives people into trusting their own wisdom/knowledge for salvation. God's wisdom reveals the truth of the Gospel leading to salvation.

4. Satan's wisdom deceives the lost into thinking they are morally and intellectually superior when they're, in fact, sinful. God's wisdom reveals itself through Christlike living.

As was mentioned last week, Satan is a marketing genius. He has consistently and constantly found ways to repackage and resell the same old lies for millennia. As Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 1:9, "there is nothing new under the sun."

The scheme of falsely marketing worldly knowledge as wisdom has long been a successful tactic. So it makes sense that Satan would not abandon such a useful ploy. As one of my favorite sayings goes, "if it ain't broke don't fix it." Therefore, it should come as no surprise to learn that the Devil has simply rebranded his version of "wisdom" for the modern world. In modern language, he has exchanged wisdom for being "woke."

If you're unfamiliar with what it means to be "woke" allow me to help you out.

Wikipedia describes "woke" as "a political term of African-American origin refer[ring] to a perceived awareness of issues concerning social justice and racial justice." ^[1]

The website, Grazia explains the transitioning of the word to a larger meaning: "In its modern-day, politicised context, 'woke' is defined by the OED as 'originally: well-informed, up-to-date. Now chiefly: alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice'. The Urban Dictionary, meanwhile, explains that 'being woke means being aware... knowing what's going on in the community (related to racism and social injustice)'." ^[2]

What I find funny is how the Grazia article cherry picks its definition from the Urban Dictionary. The Urban Dictionary rates definitions based upon people's input. Currently the top definition of woke in the Urban Dictionary reads: "The act of being very pretentious about how much you care about a social issue" Three of

the next four definitions according to Urban Dictionary are as follows: "Being "Woke" is what happens when instead of taking one blue pill, you down the entire bottle." "A word currently used to describe "consciousness" and being aware of the truth behind things "the man" doesn't want you to know i.e. classism, racism, and any other social injustices. The term comes from a genuine place but is becoming overused. People mainly use it to sound like deep thinkers when they are really just following a trend." And, "Using an improper word in an incorrect tense to attempt to attach some worldly significance to a person or object (books, screenplay, etc.) so that one appears to be "hip." In actual fact, this usage shows one's ignorance and inability to use words and feelings to express oneself properly." [3]

As can be seen by these Urban Dictionary definitions, it appears that many are waking up to the deception of "woke" as wisdom. But as Christians we need to understand the biblical basis for rejecting Satan's newest marketing plan.

Scripture: Romans 1:18-32

I. Woke is NOT Wisdom

A. Woke

1. Being "woke" is a perfect example of how Satan deceives
 - a) A little bit of truth
 - (1) Truth mixed with lies
 - (a) The reality of injustice is combined with lies concerning why injustice occurs
 - (i) Kettle of hot water in the ocean
 - (2) Truth to cover a lie
 - (a) Satan sells involuntary victimhood perpetrated by man
 - (b) True victimhood is perpetrated by Satan and willingly embraced by man
 - (c) Prejudice and injustice are the result of mankind being sinful

B. "Woke" VS Wisdom

1. Matters
 - a) Racism
 - (1) Woke
 - (a) People of color have been and are currently being suffering from racial inequality
 - (2) Wisdom
 - (a) Racism has existed as long as there have been races and racial injustice has been perpetrated throughout history not just now
 - (b) Systemic racism is the result of systemic sinfulness

- (c) Racism is rooted in dismissing biblical truth that every human's worth is equal because every human being is created in the image of God and Jesus' death to redeem every human being (Gen. 9:6; Col. 3:11)
 - (d) Solution: Teach that the value of a human being is not found in the color of their skin nor the content of their character but in their being created in the image of God and Jesus' death for their redemption while condemning both soft and violent bigotry.
- b. Poverty
- (3) Woke
- (a) Poverty is the result of systemic oppression
- (4) Wisdom
- (a) Poverty is most often the result of poor decision making
 - (i) High school diploma, full-time job, waiting to have children
 - (b) Bible teaches education of children (Deut. 11:9), importance of work (1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:10), and sexual morality which promotes reproduction within marriage (1 Thess. 4:3)
 - (c) Solution: Preach the importance of biblical precepts and give charitably to organizations and ministries that help meet material needs while demanding personal accountability and development of job skills
- c. Gender
- i. Woke
 - (d) Gender is a social construct and should be considered fluid
 - (e) There are more than 2 genders
 - ii. Wisdom
 - 1) Science says that every cell in a humans body is either XX or XY chromosomes
 - 2) Genesis 1:27
 - 3) Solution: Proclaim biblical and scientific truth while encouraging psychological treatment for those suffering true gender dysphoria
- d. Sexuality
- (5) Woke
- (a) Sexuality is genetic and not a choice, therefore it should be embraced and encouraged
 - ii. Wisdom
 - (b) Science has now confirmed that there is no such thing as a "gay gene" meaning that sexual behavior is a result of nurture not nature

2) Evolution argues survival of the fittest. Homosexuality prevents reproduction and would lead to extinction.

3) Homosexuality is a result of man being given over to depraved sexual desires (24, 26-27)

3) Solution: Teach biblical principles regarding sexual holiness while working to prevent sexual and emotional abuse

e. Abortion

i. Woke

1) Bodily autonomy is a Constitutional right

iii. Wisdom

(c) Certain laws make demands against bodily autonomy

(d) Science states that from the moment of conception, a unique human person is formed

(i) Different terms refer to stages of development not to humanity

(e) One person's rights end where another's rights begin

(f) The Bible clearly teaches that an unborn child is a person and should be protected by law (Ps. 139:13-16; Ex. 21:22-24)

(g) Solution: Preach the sanctity of human life at all stages of human development and partner with ministries that seek to help unwed or struggling mothers/parents, adoption, and foster care

C. What's our response

1. Don't

a) Don't deny the reality of the issues

(1) Many injustices DO exist

b) Don't return evil for evil

(1) Maintain a Christlike attitude and return good for evil

c) Don't Assume

(1) One of the greatest mistakes we can make is to assume we know their argument (Listen & Ask)

2. Do

a) Remember you are involved in spiritual battle not physical battle

(1) Prepare yourself appropriately (God's strength, God's armor)

(2) The enemy is the deceit not the deceived

b) Know your audience

(1) Biblical arguments VS logical/scientific arguments

c) Speak the truth in love

(1) Whether sharing Scripture or science/logic do so with a gentle spirit

God commands us to allow the Bible to be the final judge of whether or not something is good or bad, right or wrong, just or unjust, wise or foolish. So as we close this morning let's do just that. Let's ask the Bible to judge being "woke."

Now one of the important things to realize about "woke" people is that they tend to be violent. They do not want the free exchange of ideas so much that they shut down opposing viewpoints. And when their peaceful attempts are met with something as pesky as the 1st Amendment, they will resort to violence or varying levels.

When we take that fact into consideration and measure against what God says, what will we find? Last week we saw in the book of James that godly wisdom is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism and hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace.

In comparison, what Satan markets as wisdom is marked by envy, selfish ambition, disorder and every kind of evil. In our passage today we read that the foolishness of Satan that convinced man to think he was wise is evidenced by people who are "are full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful." And "they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them."

Now, you tell me whether "woke" is actually godly wisdom or a forgery of Satan.

[i] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woke>

[ii] <https://graziadaily.co.uk/life/real-life/woke-added-dictionary-really-mean/>

[iii] <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=woke>