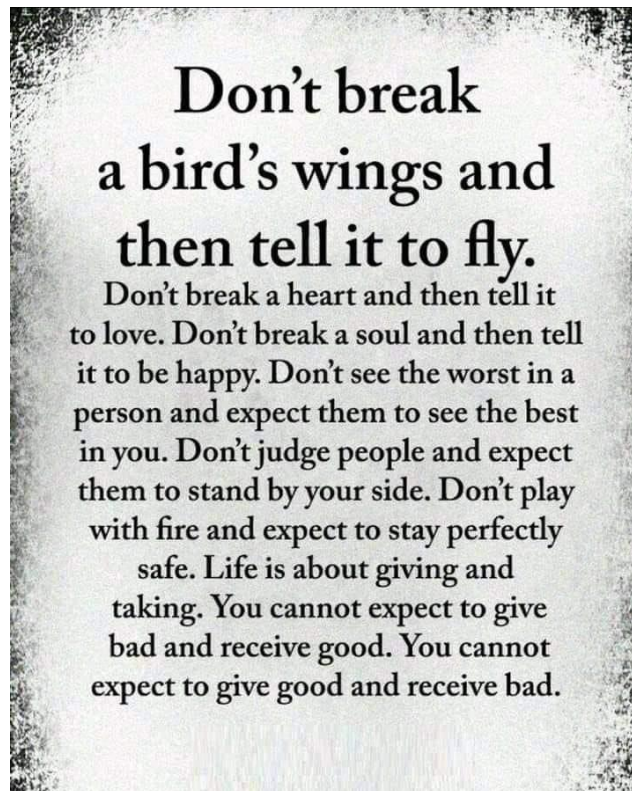


DRAFT

Do You Block the Talents of Others?



Bible Studies, Random Thoughts & Short Essays.

Do You Block the Talents of Others?

Authored by Craig Martin White.

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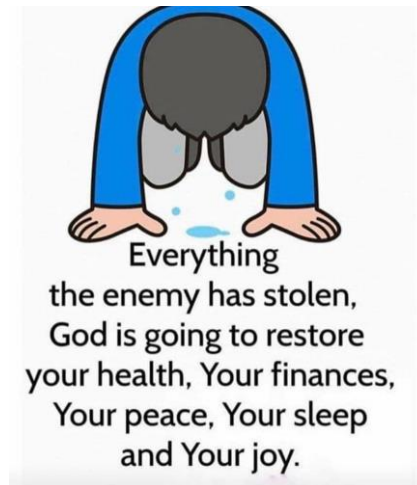
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"The general [or member] who advances without coveting fame and retreats without fearing disgrace [ie self-sacrifice in a greater cause], whose only thought is to protect his country [or church] and do good service for his sovereign [Christ], is the jewel of the kingdom." (Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*)
le no ambition and no trampling over others!

Associated Readings

- [What the Bible says about False Brethren](#)
- [Jealousy & Envy in Scripture](#)
- [They have their Reward](#)
- [What does a Deacon do?](#)

Introduction



“For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng. My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; **his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.**” (Ps 55:12-14, 20-21)

This article was originally going to be titled *Lie no more one to Another*, with the title based on Col 3:9 and Eph 4:25. The underlying issue being lies and slander (even defamation) that is used to undermine the efforts, talents and spiritual gifts of Christians.

“Don’t tell lies to each other; it was your old life with all its wickedness that did that sort of thing; now it is dead and gone.” (*The Living Bible*)

We have **all** been endowed with natural talents, degrees of education, opportunities, upbringing and of course spiritual gifts. Yet there are those waiting to undermine you, snap at your heels and bring you down.

This Bible study/short essays will demonstrate how human actions reflect the mind of Satan. One can gain insights in the mind of the Devil via those that display his values and way of life as represented by the fruits of the flesh (this represents the experiences and feelings of many).

You see, if they cannot find anything about you to denigrate, they will create something – fabricate untruths and spread it, in an attempt to pin their lies on you. It is an old tactic that comes from Satan and is very successful. That is why they practice it to prevent others from using their gifts and talents (see the **Appendix. Stop Sanguine Persecution in the Church**).

Conscious attempts to Cause Harm

There are many faces of Satan, amongst them being the more brutal, frontal attacks of a wolf. Another is subtly like a snake – cunning and deceitful. These essays emphasises the latter.

Many have experienced this within the Church as has this author. As a result of the experiences of those on the receiving end of such behaviours, I thought it worthwhile to write up a Bible study with short essays on the subject with supporting appendices that should help both the victims and the perpetrators (see the **Appendix. Spiritual Sheepdogs**).

If the perpetrators did not extol the trait of the spirit of competition, then why are they cooperating to do the things contained herein? There have been too many leaks for them to deny their carnal behaviours.

It seems that once a Church member just raises their heads and attempts to do something (write a book, organise a seminar, launch a newsletter, give a presentation), the jealousy and horrible actions eventuate. My Mother warned me during my youth that if I used my God given talents, persecution may arise (I say “during” as she iterated this on a number of occasions, and it stuck in my head) (see the **Appendix. Words of Wisdom**).

She insisted that I develop and use my talents (as should everyone) as they are God-given – regardless of harassment and jealousy. “If God is for you, who can be against you?” she repeated from time-to-time.

You see, some say that once they are ordained that there is a target on their back. In checking with some Church elders, they deride such statements as that being made by those who wish to gain sympathy and to hide what they do to others. The reality is that if members have ‘get up and go’; or use their initiative; or organise things; and especially if they use their God-given gifts and talents, the jealousy comes at them like a tidal wave! Instead of using the talents in the Church, it is crushed and disappointed members leave. Lies are spread about them. Suspicion is cast upon them. Much goes on behind their backs to destabilise them, particularly with other ministers. But some members engage in these activities similarly – after all, it is the same spirit involved with the same outcomes – harm to the innocent and gradual white-anting of the Church of God.

Essentially, this study forms part of a series of articles – continuing on from them to aid the reader in areas that Herbert W Armstrong used to warn about – the spirit of competition.

The other articles in this series

What the Bible says about False Brethren

False brethren and fake ministers can take on all sorts of forms such as wolves, thieves, snakes, tares, thorns and so forth. But how do they operate and what do *you* have to do to either avoid or counter them? This must be considered and taken seriously.

The biggest clue is that they lie, spread slander and then deny it using emotion to sway others, getting others involved with the - to do their dirty deeds for them, while they operate behind the scenes, manipulating the situation. The article is available [here](#).

What does a Deacon do?

This study was originally titled *So you want to be a Deacon?* In it I explained what a deacon is supposed to do. But there are those who seemingly just have to denounce others and walk all over them to attain that office - as they often wish to use it as a stepping-stone to eldership and pastorship as if they were on a career path.

They then don't fulfill the office, but fill it. They have no interest in its role and that it is meant to be a lifetime of service to help the under-privileged which means sacrifice! Yes, sacrificing their time, their interests, aspects of their business etc in service to God and man. If sacrifice is too difficult to execute based on their character (ongoing, historical behaviours), they should not be ordained or allow themselves to be – lest they meet the wrath of God.

They are there to sit down with and understand the needs of others, including their emotional needs. To feed and shelter members physically and emotionally. Their role is **FAR** more than just hall set up, kitchen duty, socials and sermonettes – after all anyone can do those. Have a read of the article online here [What does a Deacon do?](#)

They have their Reward

My Mother used to remark about people who make a show of their good works; or wealth to impress ministers; or use all sorts of unethical means to gain favours, positions or 'opportunities to serve' as they like to say; or to isolate others for ambitious purposes.

The principle is this:

"They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and **they love the place of honor** at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues **and greetings** in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others." (Matt 23:5-7)

"And he spake this parable unto certain [ie the Pharisees] which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, **and despised others** [looked down upon them] ..." (Luke 18:9, KJV)

They love to be acknowledged and thought of in high esteem – in the wrong, selfish way for a number of reasons. One is so that they can be recognized and thus to be ordained; or to gain a following within the Church.

If one aspires to gain something one is not supposed to gain, but obtains it (eg accolades or positions or social status), then they have their reward now in this life. One will not receive their reward (or instead perhaps inherit a reduced reward) in the Kingdom.

You can read the article [They have their Reward](#) online.

Jealousy and Envy in Scripture

This article points out that success breeds jealousy:

“Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?” (Prov 27:4)

“But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. **For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?**” (1Cor 3:1-3)

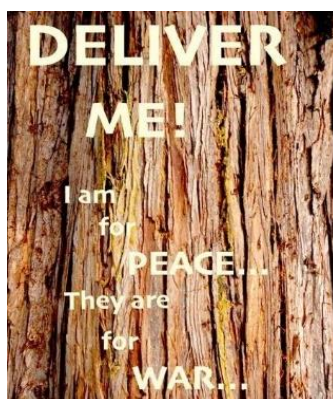
“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.” (James 3:16)

This all leads to slander and campaigning behind the scenes to undermine those they are jealous of.

For instance, some try and undermine other’s achievements such as organising seminars (or socials, outreach, good works), writing, public speaking or scholarship. Envy takes jealousy to another level – the bitterness and burning within gives way to the undermining of another’s achievements or potential achievements.

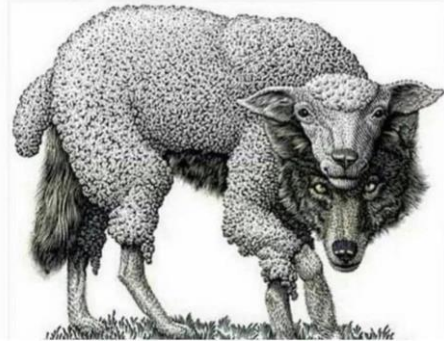
In their jealousy and envy they actually publicly equate a Christian’s knowledge of God’s Word with the Gnostics! This a very much unjustified and terrible comparison. They come up with this nonsense to put down Bible students within the body of Christ. Instead, they should be encouraging Bible students and eagerly wanting the members to be involved with Bible study and related topics. They even state publicly that those who delve deeply into Scripture are those that lose out of salvation and those that are simple in just casually reading over the Bible will make it into the Kingdom.

For more information on this, have a read of the article on [Jealousy and Envy](#), free online.



How Deception Works

Some people aren't who they say they are. Be cautious of the company you keep.



Many of those who undermine the spiritual gifts and talents of others do so consciously and with deliberate intent.

They use deception, deceit, the spreading of malicious misinformation, trickery and downright lies to accomplish this. They are cunning, crafty, subtle, pretend to be the victim, deceitful, guileful – though their relatives and friends may be blind to their tactics (www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus/deception and www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus/deceitfulness). The Bible exhorts us to lay aside this craftiness or guile (ie being sneaky, deceptive) in John 1:47; IICor 12:16; IThess 2:3; IPet 2:1, 22; 3:10; Rev 14:5.

Collins Dictionary explains:

“deception is applied to anything that deceives, whether by design or illusion; fraud suggests deliberate deception in dishonestly depriving a person of property, rights, etc.; subterfuge suggests an artifice or stratagem used to deceive others and to evade something or gain some end; trickery implies the use of tricks or ruses in deceiving others; chicanery implies the use of petty trickery and subterfuge, esp. in legal actions”

(www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/deception)

Deception by Lying and Cunning

Here is a list of insights and examples of guile to assist the reader in understanding this:

- Lies
- Distortions
- Slander
- Defamation (look how Joseph was wrongfully imprisoned)
- False allegations made against Herbert W Armstrong
- Falsified or fabricated ‘records’ on a member without their knowledge. Adding to the ‘record’ on them

- They like to deflect from their own activities by pointing at church leaders. But that is because they are themselves not innocent. Or as Herbert Armstrong stated, they have three fingers pointing back at them

We can see that deceitfulness takes on many forms.

Trying to catch these types out is the hard part. They hide a level or two further down the gossip/slander trail, hidden from view. But a little digging exposes them.

Subtle, they are. Does this not remind **you** of the very spirit working through and behind them, beguiling and deceiving members? Gathering a following. Trying to get ordained. Stealing flocks from other groups. Slandering others to try and prevent them from giving Sabbath presentations or seminars or to undermine their work/accomplishments – gifts and talents – out of jealousy.

"Subtle and insubstantial, the expert leaves no trace; divinely mysterious, he is inaudible. Thus he is master of his enemy's fate."

"He who is prudent and lies in wait for an enemy who is not, will be victorious." (Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*)

But Christ says:

"You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?" (Matt 23:33, ESV)

In 1986 a false minister who, some claim, had demon problems, tried all he could to undermine members with talents and gifts he was jealous of by fabricating lies about them spreading them to other ministers claiming that they were trouble-makers, ambitious and proud. In the late 1980s he was assisted by another minister, a close friend. Together both spiritually raped and pillaged the two congregations under them, smashing them up (there are many witnesses to their behaviours) and diaries, letters etc. The consequent devastation of the churches they left mauled and bleeding was that the members identified God's Law, ways and doctrines with this extreme cultic behaviour. They consequently fell into the arms of the apostasy.

These particular ministers (and their faction) said that God inspired them and that they sat on the Seat of Moses; that they had dreams where God showed them things; they were so close to God as 'priests' that there were almost completely impervious to sin and problems; and that God backed them up regardless, even if they damaged others.

Their view continues to be that they must never apologise; be seen to be invincible; create a lager around themselves; and never admit to any wrong-doing. Eg accusing the members of rebellion when they rebel against their own leadership!

They would never apologise if they made a mistake against someone and that person was not guilty of the things they claimed, they would say to that person that God had sent them to find out their sins. Two hours of cultic and horrendous probing and brow-beating and screaming like

men possessed as related by so many. In an attempt to get the members to cough up their past sins or supposed sins.

“We are as Christ before you” they used to scream!

And that they could use cunning tactics and even lie because God “uses us as lying spirits” per IKings 22:21-23.

These were nothing but wolves; tools of the Devil; and Satanic agents. Bullies and thugs. They broke both the Law of God and the law of the land (Rom 13:1-7).

As my Mother used to say that these types (false brethren and false ministers) “are snakes in the grass” – secretive, venomous and evil.

“Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be pitiful, be courteous* ... But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled ... Having a good conscience; that, **whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.**” (IPet 3:8, 14, 18)

In my handwritten church services notebook from 1985, I wrote down some of the disgraceful and cultic things being said during sermons.

The minister, like others, claimed that he could be like a lying spirit for God (per the above). And he and his close associates did lie a lot – including about other ministers (this is a trait that continues among some to this day). Some even stated that they were the ‘gods’ (priests) of Ps 82; are “as Christ before you” and other stuff promulgated since the early 1960s or thereabouts. Even though Herbert Armstrong dumped this cultic stuff by the late 1960s upon discovering it, it has remained in certain quarters to this day.

The same minister and his friend berated a member for calling that minister a pharisee for his extremist ideas and cultic control over people. But the member simply represented the views of many who suffered terribly under him. He refused to relent because he was always correct. They then commenced a lying campaign against the member like they did with others. Piling on and adding to the accusations, throwing mud in the hope that it stuck.

Today certain ministers continue these outrageous claims that they:

- sit on Moses Seat
- “are as Christ before you”
- are inspired (like prophets or patriarchs)
- have to be obeyed in everything
- can break the law of the land and cover for each other
- are the ‘gods’ of Psalm 82
- must always be backed up even if in the wrong, smash up churches, abuse people and refuse to go along with Church policies

- can refuse to preach Church doctrines
- etc.

These types will get the Church into enormous difficulties with the law and may even perjure themselves (Rom 13:1-7).

It is these attitudes that they emanate which are so destructive with their claims that they are 'backed up by God' and must form a lager against the membership - which causes such abuses including the undermining of gifts and talents of others.

This attitude can cross all ministerial factions, but I found this attitude to reside mainly in the extreme left and extreme right factions.

In Australia there were three factions: the cultic/Pharisaical abusive faction; moderates that followed the policies of headquarters and Herbert Armstrong (falsely labelled 'liberal'); and the real liberals – neo-Protestants that found their way into groups that continued from the old Worldwide Church of God. The latter were also well known for sexual misconduct at Ambassador College and in Australia; very dirty talk; cover ups (even of homosexuals and bisexuals); slandering Mr Armstrong and accusing him of what they were guilty of; defaming members and ministers; not teaching and undermining basic doctrines and other carnal behaviours.

Later, some detested doctrinal conservatives and accused these members falsely behind their backs; they went on a campaign against them to their own (ie the accuser's) family, friends, members, ministers across the country and even overseas!

The following portrays what some are like (author unknown):

"A person had a pet snake that she loved very much. The snake was about 7 ft long and one day it just stopped eating. After several weeks of trying everything the lady still couldn't get the snake to eat. The woman took the snake to the vet and explained her situation. The vet replies "I see ..has your snake been sleeping with you at night or snuggling real close and stretching himself out?" The woman said "Yes. Every day and it makes me so sad that I can't help him feel better." The vet says to the lady "Ma'am your snake is not sick. It has been preparing to eat you. He's been sizing you up every day so he knows how big he has to be. He's not eating so he has enough room to digest you.

Moral of the Story:

Recognize the snakes around you. Everyone's intentions aren't pure. Just because they seem close to you, doesn't mean their intentions aren't to devour you.

Some ppl aren't PRAYING for you they're PREYING on you!!"

In effect it is the telling of lies and living a lie (ie hypocrisy). After all, Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) and the master of deceit and deception.

Refer to these articles for further insights:

- <https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/verses/id/140/deception-verses.htm>
- <https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/verses/id/1181/satans-deception-verses.htm>
- <https://torreygazette.com/blog/2015/8/18/deception-in-genesis>
- <https://www.openbible.info/topics/deceiving>
- <https://www.openbible.info/topics/deception>

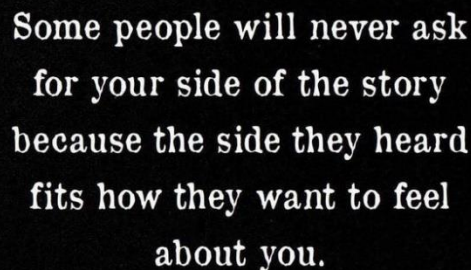
The principle is unveiled by the Apostle Paul:

“Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (II Thess 2:11-12, ESV)

In this verse, God leads individuals to believe a falsehood, a "strong delusion," after they have rejected the truth for a long time. This is not a case of God purposefully misleading people; rather, God is just providing what the people who reject the truth truly desire.

Romans 1:18–25 demonstrates a similar pattern, in which God simply abandons people to their own wickedness when they reject His truth for an extended period of time. They have probably gone past the point of no return and have become tares or Satanic agents.

God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all acts of godlessness and wickedness committed by people who obstruct the truth through their wickedness, since God has made all that is known about Him clear to them.



Some people will never ask
for your side of the story
because the side they heard
fits how they want to feel
about you.

Tricks that are used – Personal Examples

Sometimes God closes doors because it's time to **MOVE** forward. He knows you won't move unless your circumstances force you. Trust the transition. God's got you!!

To ensure success in undermining another's talents, gifts and initiatives, here is a short list of their tricks or tactics which are used to isolate that person and turn

- Will not give support (eg giving talks or organising seminars)
- Will not have sign-up lists or work groups at their churches to prevent those they are jealous of from participating
- Not inviting to socials or other events (studies, weekends away etc)
- Normally not responding to invites – of if they do, it is to decline as always.

All this is done to enforce isolation on the imagined 'rival' and to ensure one cannot create networks. They can then say and do what they want about one to others without one's knowledge (at least, not initially).

Gaslighting

Gaslighting is another method used.

The true meaning of gaslighting is linked to psychological terminology, defined as a form of psychological abuse. The action arises from a person or group of people making someone confront their understanding of the truth or memories of past events, ultimately causing them to question their sanity or if they really did experience the abuses. This can be accomplished through remarks or reporting, often causing the person being gaslighted to feel confused and anxious. Gaslighting is the act of intentionally deceiving someone, typically for one's own benefit. It can be compared to a manipulative framework that can be intentional, requiring careful thought and planning, or it can also be unintentional. The deceptive nature of gaslighting is what makes it so effective.

An example is a record of abuse titled ***How Satan's Wolves Operate*** of which only one of the recipients derided. The accusation was that the article contained exaggerations, recollection was distorted by trauma and suchlike. This was despite the fact they experienced some abuse themselves; detailed records including diary entries were kept; there are many witnesses. The fact is that one had never sat down and had a meal or conversation with them. And they were heavily influenced by the clique ring-leaders which distorted their pre-conceived views of one.

Imagine: hearing so much about 'love' yet experiencing so little of it. These sorts ignore invites; will not extend invites; lie that they are busy when they weren't; spend time with clique ring-leaders; run down other Church groups; will not permit a visit to a Feast site even for a day; keep one from giving presentations and on and on it goes.

Examples of Trickery

Their trickery and subtlety (which they admit to) is unveiled with the following real examples.

A. Leaving out of socials and invites:

They leave their imagined rivals out of organised socials (which are organised secretly, often via *Signal*). This is with the deliberate intention to isolate them.

So, how does all this, commencing from the 1990s, differ from the pastors they criticise?

Here are just some of examples from those affected by them:

1. Completely kept rivals out of everything including the immense amount of socials going on twelve years later– all organised quietly. The trick they play (and people continue to play) is to avoid one and not answer phone calls or e-mails etc in case one finds out about all their socialising and selfishly leaving out others who do not have place to hold socials; or who have been denigrated; or do not have the social capital such as having family or nice homes to organise socials. One person got a member involved in late 2009 but soon discovered from some that he wasn't wanted by the ring-leaders. During Covid, when eventually people were allowed to meet, they deliberately ignored pleas to meet and went ahead and arranged gatherings without those they detested.

Yet they constantly talk about love, love, love – demonstrating so little of it.

2. Fibs told to members in the usual subtle way on several occasions – one for example in effect saying that nothing was happening over a certain long weekend. That was another lie as people were getting together and all pre-arranged secretly. Or snarky and bitchy toward certain ones at events to make them feel unwelcomed. Feeling threatened by others will lead to actions against them, not so? As a line in Kipling's "If" poem (my favourite) reads "And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise" - how true. Because some seem to suffer anxiety when they compare themselves to others and then act accordingly in very carnal ways.

As the famous Sun Tzu wrote in *The Art of War* (6th century BC):

"Be extremely subtle, even to the point of formlessness. Be extremely mysterious, even to the point of soundlessness. Thereby you can be the director of the opponent's fate."

"A military operation involves deception. Even though you are competent, appear to be incompetent. Though effective, appear to be ineffective."

These techniques demonstrate the evil that is inherent within war, including spiritual war, which false brethren practice.

3. A few years ago a member was thrown off a Facebook site for no reason, behind his back based on gossip or something and had to struggle to find out who did this. It was disgraceful and upon finding out rang up the person who did – the perpetrator ‘apologised’ (not seriously though), but it confirmed their attitude as they had removed the member from socials and getting involved and shut down another online sharing site some years ago too. They were too popular and posting too much good stuff that members loved. The jealous reaction was childish. These prevent the members they are jealous of from participating in events and will not support those they are organising.

4. Some want to control and organise everything and others thereby do not get a look in – they do this by hogging positions. They consequently have all the fellowship and good times together arranging things and expect us to obey. How does any of this differ from the ministers they criticise – is it not the same approach and spirit? Control and keeping at bay their imagined rivals.

5. There are a number of other matters but those may be too revealing (such as shouting at members at church services waving their hands around furiously to “get out; get out” all because they were leaving to go home and were asked to do something at the last minute without preparation or knowledge). It demonstrated to the member on the receiving end the deep resentment toward them for which only they know the reason for. But one can feel the vibes, that is for certain. Similar behaviours took place at BBQs with all sorts of disgusting and untrue hints.

6. Going away together on long weekends secretly and leaving those in need out.

7. Holding private Bible studies for years and moving them when others find out.

8. They start by lying to their wives and families accusing the innocent member(s) of this or that to start the ball rolling. They and their families the innocent victim hardly knows and never sat down and had a conversation with, yet they are snarky, biting and ‘have an attitude’ toward the member(s).

There are so many other bad memories stretching back to the 1990s but they will not be revisited.

Nothing has changed nor will change. These factions have caused horrendous damage to members – permanent loss of friends and potential friends. The only good thing to come out of it as it has forced these innocent members to undertake studies and writings on certain subjects they may not otherwise have done.

Anyhow, they just couldn’t care and, in some cases, it is obvious they get a ‘kick’ out of seeing others suffer. To chop down “tall poppies” as they see it.

B. Disinformation campaign (subtle):

“But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, **slander**, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.” (Col 3:8-10, ESV)

“**Don’t tell lies to each other**; it was your old life with all its wickedness that did that sort of thing; now it is dead and gone.” (Col 3:9, Living Bible)

“... to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,

and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” (Eph 4:22-25, ESV)

“**Stop lying to each other; tell the truth**, for we are parts of each other and when we lie to each other we are hurting ourselves.” (Eph 4:25, Living Bible)

C. Removing one from events etc:

The ring-leaders sideline others and prevent their initiatives such as seminars.

Here is another example – there was a list of events put up that one could help infill. A ring-leader deleted them and when the member inquired of the person who removed them it was told to me that they didn’t know how this happened. They then uploaded everything but the creator of the list of events decided not to use it so that fellowship is now all secret again and he could have total control.

When a successful Saturday night Bible Discussion Group was reactivated by a member and who was willing for it to be handed over to the originator or anyone else, the ring-leaders came from behind his back decided to commence their own meetings that help split the Church, calling out ‘Daughter of Babylon’. All sorts of reasons were given why the Bible Discussion Group shouldn’t go ahead, so it was a no brainer. As usual secret collusion was going on again and it was asked whom they were talking with and they said people in a certain area of the city (the usual suspects who want to take over everything, leave members out, have no sign up lists, no work groups etc).

On a personal note: I recall well how badly I was mistreated when I was in hospital; or when my parents died; and especially during Covid when they all had visitors (when permitted) or met up in parks – they deliberately left me out due to the spirit of competition and the nature of a clique. Or when I proposed a weekend away after the Feast of Tabernacles I was told no one was interested – yet they immediately set about organizing one and left me out (the organisers came down sick with Covid so they couldn’t make it). Or lied about arrangements for the Feast in 2020. Other lies about me have also been spread to the point that people I have never met before or

hardly know have quite a negative view of me. It is a ploy to sideline those they feel threatened by.

This has been an ongoing issue for years in this area by these ring-leaders.

One told me how subtle they were – as if I hadn't noticed. Operating deeply like a submarine, they undermine those that they feel jealous of. Yet they are not leaders who are open and honest and will fight for the people. Some have ambitions and are cowards doing nothing unless it serves themselves.



So what's the difference between abusive ministers and some members?



All they do is take away the joy of salvation – but God will restore it:

“Restore to me **the joy of your salvation**, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”
(Ps 51:12. See Ps 13:5; Is 61:10; Phil 4:4)

“**I will restore to you the years** that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.” (Joel 2:25)

These are spiritual thieves, to which God's Word warns:

“... but if he [a thief] is caught, he will pay sevenfold; **he will give all the goods of his house.**” (Prov 6:31, ESV)

"The general [or member] who advances without

Minister	Certain others
Opposed to the seminars organised over years and undermined them. Refused to attend most. Undermines or tries to take over one's initiatives	Opposed to the seminars organised over years. Undermines or tries to take over one's initiatives
Shouted at one to get out of the church during a formative meeting in late 1995 because I wanted the 'lost' tribes of Israel to	Not very supportive of the doctrine et.

Minister	Certain others
be included in the UCG Fundamentals of belief	Shouted at one at a Bible study and shoed away from a seat and forced to sit on the outskirts
Two of his supporters similarly shouted at me suddenly, inexplicably over time	Shouted at me on 2 occasions for no reason. One was "go, go, go" (ie get out)
Sees others as competitors or rivals (ie is jealous) and acts accordingly	Sees others as competitors or rivals (ie is jealous) and acts accordingly
Tells lies about one	Tells lies about one
'Whispers' (ie slanders) to his peers and family to 'set you up'	'Whispers' (ie slanders) to their friends and contacts
Plagiarises sermons	Plagiarises
Kept from participating in the church	Tries to keep one from participating
Will not support anything one does or tries and do	Will not support anything one does or tries and do
Smooth to your face (subtle). Claims to be smooth and subtle	Smooth to your face (subtle). Claims to be subtle
Will not have sign-up lists to undertake jobs or sub-committees/work groups to involve everyone	Opposed to sign-up lists to undertake jobs or sub-committees/work groups to involve everyone as they want to organise and control everything
Closed down or undermined the speakers club and working groups	Closed down sites or tried to push people off
Opposed to Bible studies and tries to stop them	If one it too good at them, they are stopped but reactivated in another way
Not eager at arranging socials. Will not invite anyone over except a tiny inner circle	A huge no of socials organised secretly for many, many years. Kept out of most since the 1990s, and they will not even respond to invites (whether to accept or decline)
Does all he can to prevent my participation	Do all they can to prevent my participation
Uses techniques to get one ostracised	Uses techniques to get one ostracised
Will never come to one to accuse them etc, but instead is 'subtle' – operating like a submarine behind the scenes	Will never come to one to accuse them etc, but instead is 'subtle' – operating like a submarine behind the scenes
Acts nice to some and nasty to those he doesn't like. Those treated nasty are treated with contempt by others as a result and even ostracised. Because they are well treated they do not believe that others are mistreated.	Acts nice to some and nasty to those he doesn't like. Those treated nasty are treated with contempt by others as a result and even ostracised. Because they are well treated they do not believe that others are mistreated.
Tried to push one out of the church	Is this their desire?

So, what's the difference?

It's just the **same spirit**: the spirit of competition and seeing the other person as a rival as Herbert Armstrong used to preach and war about so much. Their wish is to push aside

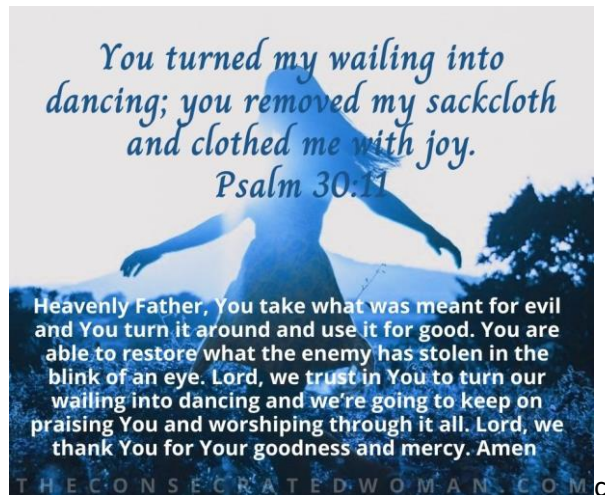
imagined rivals for their own ambitions. Yet, there is no rivalry on the part of the imagined rival! It is placed in their mind by their own carnal imaginings.

in his book *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr Armstrong explained that Lucifer, a mighty archangel

“was created gloriously beautiful—perfect in beauty, but he allowed vanity to seize him. Then he turned to erroneous reasoning. ... He reasoned that COMPETITION [emphasis mine] would be better than cooperation. It would be an incentive to excel, to try harder, to accomplish. There would be more pleasure in serving SELF and more enjoyment.

“He turned *against* God’s law of LOVE. **He became jealous of God, envious, and resentful against God.** He allowed lust and greed to fill him, and he became bitter. This inspired a spirit of *violence!* He deliberately became his Maker’s adversary and enemy. ...

“God changed the adversary’s NAME to what he became, SATAN the DEVIL—**Satan means adversary, COMPETITOR, enemy.**” (p. 75) [emphasis mine]



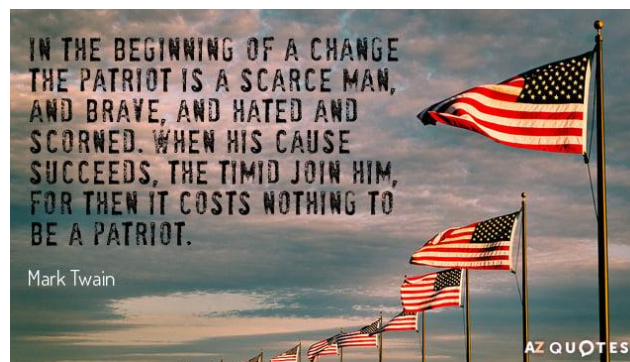
Standing up to Antagonists – Thoughts & Quotes

In an e-mail to friends dated 4 Nov 2017 I wrote:

A common proverb goes something like this:

“What doesn’t kill you
only serves to strengthen you”

It is a truism that "The more you read and learn, the less your adversary will know." (Sun Tzu, famous Chinese general and military strategist of the 6th century BC)



Now notice some applicable words by Sun Tzu:

"All men can see these tactics whereby I conquer, but what none can see is the strategy out of which victory is evolved." [ie there are secrets to success]

"Now the reason the enlightened prince and the wise general conquer the enemy whenever they move and their achievements surpass those of ordinary men is foreknowledge."

"The general [read Church member] who advances without coveting fame and retreats without fearing disgrace, whose only thought is to protect his country [read Church] and do good service for his sovereign, is the jewel of the kingdom."

"He who knows when he can fight and when he cannot will be victorious."

We are in a spiritual war, which includes a fifth column within.

But, as my favourite poet, Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), wrote:

"The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe.

To be your own man is hard business.

If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened.
But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning
yourself."

One must sometimes stand to one side and objectively examine a matter. Otherwise one may be affected by impaired vision and not thinking through issues properly. Allowing one to go from one extreme of bias on the one hand and becoming independent on the other does not assist in honing the skills of righteous judgment (see John 5:30; 7:24).

Jesus Christ and, more recently, Herbert W Armstrong, set the above example of not permitting themselves to be overwhelmed by other's viewpoints. And in 1833, Justice Joseph Story (1779-1845), US Supreme Court Justice, wrote:

"Republics [the principle applies to organisations as a whole] are created [or sustained] by the virtue, public spirit, and intelligence of the citizens [dumbing down the organization will leads to its destruction].

They fall, when the wise are banished from the public councils, because they dare to be honest, and the profligate are rewarded, because they flatter the people, in order to betray them." [like selecting those for positions who should not be given their track record]

Similarly Albert Einstein warned:

"Great spirits have always met with violent opposition from mediocre minds."

Has anything changed? So, dare we study the Bible, seeking God's will and His truths? For it is a Biblical principle that we dig deep into issues. As the scriptures say:

"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter but the glory of kings is to search out a matter. As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable." (Prov 25:2) [are not Christians kings in the making?]

Similarly, in Proverbs chapter we are instructed to search out God's treasures:

"My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding;

Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding,

If you seek her as silver, *And* search for her as *for* hidden treasures;

Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, *And* find the knowledge of God.

For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding;

He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly;

He guards the paths of justice, *And* preserves the way of His saints.

Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity *and* every good path.

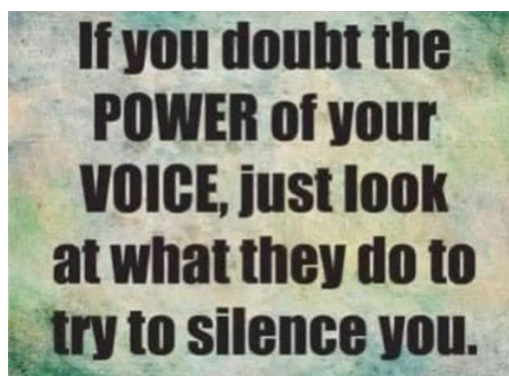
When wisdom enters your heart, *And* knowledge is pleasant to your soul,

Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you,

To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things." (Prov 2:1-12)"

Jealousy and attempts at preventing one from using one's gifts in giving presentations, organising seminars and writing continues relentlessly. Those doing this must examine themselves, their envy, slander, tactics and their heart.

Are they really Christians or tares?



[“voice” = public speaking, presentations, articles, newsletters]

When some who seek Ordination accomplish their Goal

“In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousand fold in the future. When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations.” (Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago 1918–1956*, Vol. 1, p. 188)

Some are just desperate for ordination. They use all their subtlety to go about it, including leaving imagined rivals out of socials, or giving talks, ensuring that they cannot participate. They refuse to have sign-up lists or work groups so that they can control everything and put all their friends and relatives into positions.

They do the **EXACT same things** that they accuse some ministers from doing.

Once these people are ordained and have a position (for life) they won't change and suddenly become good guys – they will continue on their current paths – but now will be even more empowered and be able to lock in their controls.

In one case, a man 'made himself available' for ordination in a Church. When he could see that he was not getting anywhere, attacked the minister and joined another church. After fighting with the minister in that church he joined another and the situation was the same, if not worse, by instigating all sorts of upheavals. Then he went to another and another until he finally was ordained – but only after impressing the minister with 'wining and dining.' He extolled attitudes of jealousy toward other members that were involved with trying to use their gifts and talents, attacking them and blocking them for many years.

He took over control of committees organising this and that, preventing others he was jealous of from using their skills. Yet he was fruitless and assisted in the decline of the church.

It is clear that he was the wrong choice and was always nice to those who he wants to be nice to; and nasty toward those he is jealous of, attempting to keep them from opportunities.

As far as the ministry knew, he was a nice guy, having been wined and dined by him.

This is an example of someone who 'has tickets on himself' and thinks of himself too highly and others too lowly. Taking over and running things for many years, yet without the ability. The outcomes were fruitless.

Many years ago I lived in England. In the local congregation there was great rivalry between two men aching for ordination. The spirit of competition led to one going behind the back of the other to denounce him and even slander him. It was disgraceful, and as a young man I found

that unwarranted but could do nothing about it. But I took careful note and continued to watch for these sorts of goings on.

There is much more that could be written exposing these disgraceful behaviours (Eph 5:11).

If someone has a record of cliquishness, dirty talk, drinking too much, doing some business on the Sabbath, texting friends during services, going for a walk around the building instead of properly attending services, being rude and abusive toward people not in their clique and not supporting them; or not believing many doctrines of the Church, should they be ordained? They don't even attend the Bible studies of their own groups and are involved in Woke programs, yet they desire ordination! You can see quite clearly what their fruits will be as a minister.

Will they change and suddenly – hey presto! – after ordination they suddenly become nice toward everyone?

With this in mind, note the following relevant article by Newt Gingrich (the former Speaker of the US House of Representatives):

“The Wolves will become Sheep by Newt,” *Gingrich360*, 18 Jan 2022.

<https://gingrich360.com/2022/01/18/the-wolves-will-become-sheep/>

“When some people acquire power, they act like wolves. They take whatever savage actions are needed to win and dominate. **They turn their opponents and critics into sheep, who learn to be quiet or face vicious attacks and destruction.**

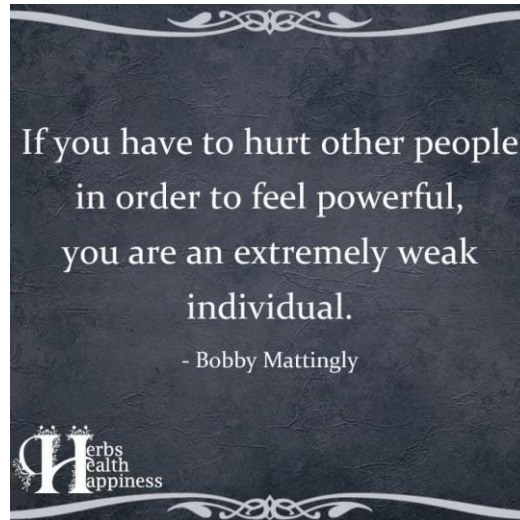
Think of Joseph Stalin killing his rivals. Think of the Castro brothers torturing, imprisoning and exiling political opponents. Consider the decay of Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe, as political opponents were imprisoned, killed and exiled. Recall the ruthlessness of Hugo Chavez in taking over Venezuela. He destroyed or exiled middle-class opponents. Meanwhile, the militia was cheerful about using force to destroy the middle class, which had created a successful, wealthy Venezuela.

The United States has had relatively few bouts of wolf-like behavior, because the separation of powers woven into the constitutional fabric of our federal government, as well as the federalism that exists between the federal and state governments, have made it impossible to sustain wolf-like behavior. The American people routinely reject overreaching politicians, the U.S. Supreme Court limits the ability of the executive branch to overreach and the states retain so much power and independence that their leaders can limit the ability of Washington wolves in overreaching.” [emphasis mine]

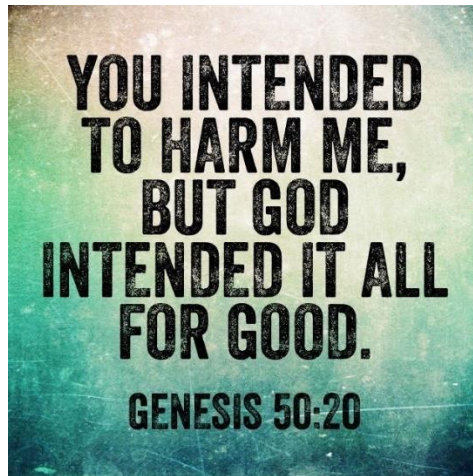
It seems that there are those who have been trying to ‘get something’ on members they are jealous of for years and years without success. They see them as rivals (and must bring them undone behind the scenes); or they see them as someone they cannot understand; or someone who stands up to bullies; or one that produces too much - all this is strange to them and must be prevented.

All their investigations have either fallen flat; or resulted in untruths or doxxing. It would be very interesting to find out their sources.

As for me, this writer is happy to sit down with the accusers and they can tell me the source of the false gossip; watch me sign and submit a statutory declaration; and go on a lie detector. And bring in witnesses. All this in front of the congregations.



Conclusions



God can either use a situation for your good (if you let Him) or set up a situation to help you grow and develop into the precious character that He desires.

Will you let him? Will **you** quit undermining the efforts of others? Will those that are undermined continue on regardless, with their talents and gifts?

Perhaps when these types close doors, God will often open up new ones (as my Mum used to say since my earliest recollections).

Sun Tzu also had some other wise sayings which those who have to endure attacks to undermine them could have a look at or use:

"All men can see these tactics whereby I conquer, but what none can see is the strategy out of which victory is evolved." [also used by the opposition and evil one]

"He who knows when he can fight and when he cannot will be victorious."

"For to win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill."

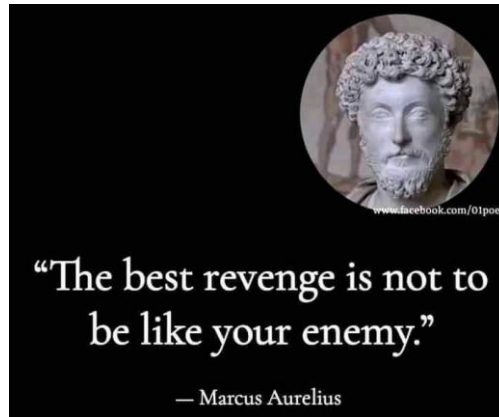
"The general who wins the battle makes many calculations in his temple before the battle is fought. The general who loses makes but few calculations beforehand."

"The good fighters of old first put themselves beyond the possibility of defeat, and then waited for an opportunity of defeating the enemy."
(Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*)

... because faith without works to endure and to accomplish, is dead – we must be Christian soldiers and think before we act. God must be our partner as we do our part in overcoming the

opposition to our efforts to use our gifts and talents – for the benefits of others and to glorify God Himself.

Unfortunately, those involved with these tactics and undermining of others, have a lot to answer for.



Appendix. Stop Sanguine Persecution in the Church

Below are extracts from an internet forum.

Subject: Stop Sanguine Persecution in the Church

Likeminds forum

26 February 1998

The personality type that gets on the nerves of Choleric/Melancholy types the most are the Sanguines. Sanguines are fun, colorful, playful and creative. They also speak their minds and love to communicate. Sanguines have been driven out of the church in a pogrom since the first day I came in the church! They are considered "Dangerous".

Consequently, our Sanguine population in the COG is endangered!

I am indeed a Sanguine, (Choleric secondarily, this is how I was able to survive!), I demand to be protected! Pray that God calls more Sanguines to his body to replace those driven away! Sanguines will make the COG a more happy place! A sunny and flower laden place!

God said David was a man after his own heart. David was a rare individual in that he was a balanced blend of all 4 basic personality types. So God has a balanced Sanguine side too! The COG will not progress until we attain a 25% sanguine population to offset all those Choleric, Melancholies, and Phlegmatics in the church.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Menifee, CA USA

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Unfortunately, speaking up is what has gotten the sanguines nudged out.

My husband Lee was one, though am not, and he added such a wonderful dimension to my life and the life of our former congregation! What a shame that this personality type is considered a threat! I believe God created the differences so we would learn to learn from one another— isn't that what humility/submission consists of!

.

I am also a proponent of Learning Styles in education. If "the ministry" are going to become better educators, they are going to have to become willing to teach by other methods than that which suits their own style.

Choleric want control~and lecture places control in the hands of the teacher. While this method has its place, if learners are to progress, they must be allowed to assume more control of their own learning - be taught how to do so if necessary.

The most valuable course I took as part of my graduate program was TEACHING: FROM COMMAND TO DISCOVERY—the textbook was by Muska Mosston. The teacher demonstrated and expected us to demonstrate each of the styles. Each has its place, one builds on the other. The mature learner benefits most from independent study, while other styles continue to play a part.

A few years ago I read this--can't document the source right now or quote it precisely--the goal of formal education is that one no longer require it.

Fortunately for me, Lee passed on his fun-loving, resilient nature to his daughter. She is such a blessing! Why are we so ready to resist that which is different from ourselves?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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My response on 29 February 1998:

Greetings,

Can't agree with this more. I heard sermons in certain congregations years ago by jealous ministers attacking persons with personality, gregarious etc. They used to target them and make all sorts of excuses to get rid of them. They felt too intimidated and fearful of them.

I recall one sermon in Sydney North about 13 years ago about joy. The bottom line was that joy was only inner peace, not outgoing happiness (in other words, be like the local minister). A lot of cloning went on in those days and we have a way to go to get away from that kind of attitude.

When one looks back at what they did to the brethren, it 'blows your mind'.

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To which I could add: anyone that persecutes you for being energetic is jealous and possesses the spirit of competition. Jealousy leads to envy and undermining that person. The minister (or member) will never admit to being jealous, but they will undermine you and not support you, using other reasons and excuses to do so, getting others onside with them.

I can give examples of this both here and overseas of what others have experienced. Rather pathetic to say the least!

Ministers and members should be happy in the successes of others, not envious, trying to bring them down or undermine or not support their efforts.

<https://amazinghealthsecrets.com/learn-to-rejoice-in-the-good-fortune-of-others/>

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Rom 12:15 ESV)

“Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.” (Rom 15:2)

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (1Thess 5:11)



Appendix. Spiritual Sheepdogs

“This is Casper,” The Rural Badge (Facebook)

3 Dec 2022.

“Gone 2 days chasing remaining coyotes, Casper is amazing!

This is Casper. Casper is a young Great Pyrenees livestock guardian dog- a literal sheepdog. He's recovering from wounds sustained in a fight with eleven (*eleven!!*) coyotes while protecting his flock. He killed eight of them.

His partner, Daisy, kept the flock packed tightly into the corner of the fold, and stood between them and the threat while Casper fought them off.

The fight was long; it was bloody. It nearly killed him but he didn't hesitate. When the coyotes tried to run, he chased them. When they split up, he tracked them; he was gone for two days. His shepherd, John Wierville of Georgia, says he may retire Casper when he recovers. His wounds were severe.

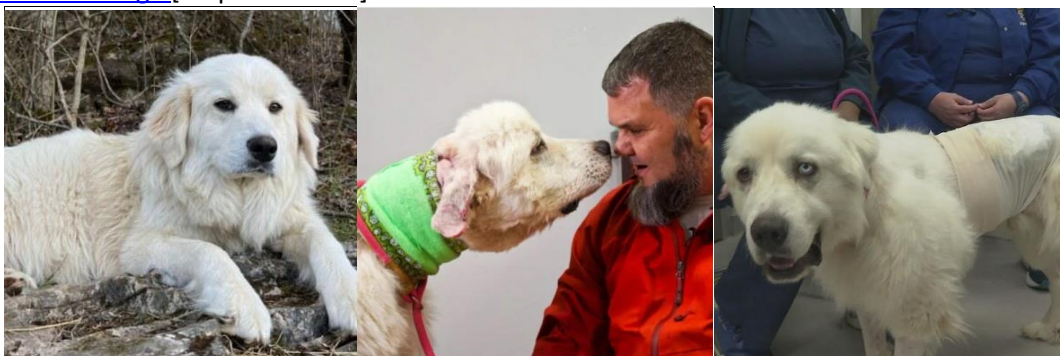
People use the word "sheepdog" very casually, an analogy they like for describing people who stand between the public and those who would harm them- but I have lived all my adult life where there are real working dogs, and I can say that most of the people who throw that term around and put stickers about it on their lifted 4X4 pickups, have no idea what it really takes to keep the innocent from harm. They have no idea the toll it takes on the guardians.

And if you tried to show them, they wouldn't want to see.

Several years ago, I wrote a blog post about The Working Dogs, after viewing a video of a pack of McNabs tackling coyotes among calves. Find the link in the comments on FB and in my story, and share it with people you know who need to understand: real life isn't like TV.

The centurion does not bear the sword for nothing, and the sheepdog has teeth for a reason.”

[#TheRuralBadge](#) [emphasis mine]



Appendix. Words of Wisdom

There are a number of very pertinent and wise sayings that we should take note of:

"A nation [read Church] can survive its fools and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and he carries his banners openly. But the traitor moves among those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not traitor! He speaks in the accent familiar to his victims and he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. **He rots the soul of a nation [or Church]. He works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of a city [or Church]; He infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist.** A murderer is less to be feared". (quote from Cicero, famous Roman statesman, who wrote the following of fifth column traitors within during 42 BC)

"Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself **as guilty of treason towards my country [or church], and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven,** which I revere above all earthly kings ... Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things, which so nearly concern their temporal salvation?"

"Our petitions have been slighted, our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne...we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! **An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us!**" (Patrick Henry, American politician, 23 March 1775). [emphasis mine]

How many are able to make a stand a lead a 'crusade for sanity'? Because if you make a stand, lead and build, they will come ...

Now notice some applicable words by Sun Tzu:

"Now the reason the enlightened prince and the wise general conquer the enemy whenever they move and their achievements surpass those of ordinary men is foreknowledge."

"The general [read Church member] who advances without coveting fame and retreats without fearing disgrace, whose only thought is to protect his country [read Church] and do good service for his sovereign, is the jewel of the kingdom."

"He who knows when he can fight and when he cannot will be victorious."

“The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.”

“The greatest victory is that which requires no battle.”

But, as my favourite poet, Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), wrote:

"The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe.

To be your own man is hard business.

If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself."

Aristotle stated that courage is first rule of leadership. Step forward and others will follow

As one person wrote on Facebook:

“It was about their heroism and resolve that Churchill famously said on August 20, 1940: “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.” Absolutely. My wife pointed out some spiritual lessons from all this. In similar **fashion there are always some brave Christian soldiers who not only know all about the battles we face and how important they are, but are willing to personally sacrifice everything and get involved.**”
(see the **Appendix. True Grit**)

Enoch Powell’s famous phrase comes to mind: “All I know is that to see, and not to speak, would be the great betrayal.”

Then there are some relevant Douglas MacArthur quotes:

1. “I am concerned for the security of our great Nation [or Church]; not so much because of any threat from without, but because of the insidious forces working from within.” ~ Douglas MacArthur
2. “The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.”...
3. “History fails to record a single precedent in which nations [or churches] subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national [church] disaster.”
4. “We have had our last chance. The problem now is basically theological and involves spirituality and improvement of human character. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.” [we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting]

Finally, my business card states:

**I shall succeed
Regardless of outside circumstances
You will either see me victoriously
Pounding my chest from the summit of the mountain**

**Or find me dead along the way
Because I refuse to give up**

**I shall not be defeated!
[author unknown]**



Appendix. True Grit!

HWA stated something similar to this in his *Seven Laws of Success* booklet.

MacArthur 'Genius' Grant: Angela Duckworth

<http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v60/n07/genius.html>

October 1, 2013, Volume 60, No. 7

Angela Duckworth - Genius Grant

“Dr. Angela Duckworth, an associate professor in Penn’s department of psychology, has been named a 2013 MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She is a psychologist whose studies are clarifying the role that intellectual strengths and personality traits play in educational achievement. Dr. Duckworth will receive a five-year \$625,000 grant, with no-strings-attached, in recognition of exceptional originality in and dedication to creative pursuits.

Dr. Duckworth’s work primarily examines two traits that she demonstrates predict success in life: grit, the tendency to sustain interest in and effort toward long-term goals, and self-control, the voluntary regulation of behavioral, emotional and attentional impulses. A major difference between the two qualities is that grit equips individuals to pursue especially challenging aims over years and even decades, while self-control operates at a more micro timescale in the battle against what could be referred to as “hourly temptations.”

In her early work, Dr. Duckworth and colleagues devised empirical measures of grit and self-control in both children and adults and established their predictive validity for a number of dimensions of success. They found that these traits predict objectively measured success outcomes, even when controlling for cognitive ability. For example, in prospective longitudinal studies, grit predicts final ranking at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, persistence at the US Military Academy at West Point and graduation from Chicago public high schools over and beyond standardized achievement test scores; likewise, self-control predicts report card grades and improvements in report card grades over time better than measured intelligence.

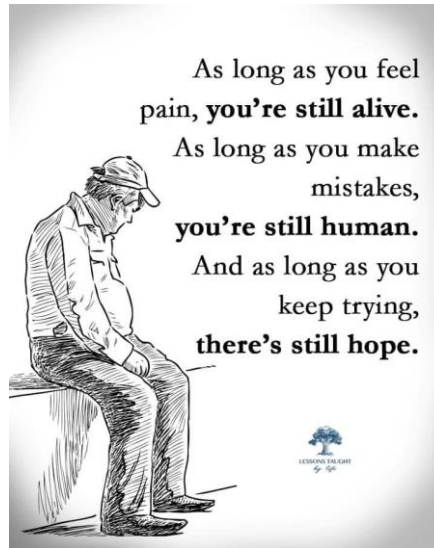
More recently, in pioneering research showing that children can learn and practice strategies for internalizing self-control, Dr. Duckworth has turned intuitions about self-regulation into scientifically informed, highly practical, approaches to teaching and learning. Currently working to develop interventions that foster self-control in children and implement her research in real-world situations, Dr. Duckworth is providing an alternative to the focus on cognitive skills now dominant in American education practice and contributing significantly to a reevaluation of education policies in the United States.

Dr. Duckworth received her AB (1992) in neurobiology from Harvard College, and as a Marshall Scholar she received her MSc (1996) in neuroscience from the University of Oxford. After earning an MA and a PhD in psychology (2006) from the University of

Pennsylvania, she became a research associate in the psychology department at Penn (2006-2007). From 2007-2013 she was an assistant professor and is now an associate professor of psychology in Penn's School of Arts & Sciences. Previously, she taught math and science at the high school level and was a management consultant.

Her articles have appeared in such publications as PNAS, the Journal of Educational Psychology, Psychological Science and the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

She explains her work in a video at: www.macfound.org/fellows/889/ “ [emphasis mine]



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