

Bible Study

DRAFT

What the Bible says about False Brethren

By Craig M White
Version 2.1



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Authored by Craig Martin White.

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Our purpose and desire are to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.

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**“Take no part in the unfruitful works of
darkness, but instead expose them.”
(Eph 5:11)**

Suggested Reading (articles and studies by C White):

- *A Genuine Minister with the Heart of a Shepherd? Or Fudging it?*
- *Are Ministers Priests or Elders? Questions and Answers*
- *A Short Note on Paul's "Thorn in the Flesh". What is it?*
- *Christians Helping Each Other*
- *Do Ministers sit on Moses Seat?*
- *Jealousy & Envy in Scripture*
- *They have their Reward*
- *What is Inspiration?*
- *What is Justice? The Biblical Requirement for Neutral Judiciaries*

Click on each of the above to access the articles.

Other Readings:

- *People of the Lie* by Scott Peck
- *Empathy: What it is and why you need it* by Adelyn Birch
<https://psychopathsandlove.com/empathy-what-it-is-and-why-you-need-it/>
- *Does the Bible say anything about Empathy?* <https://www.compellingtruth.org/Bible-empathy.html>

Introductory Remarks

“But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.”

(John 8:45)

“Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?”

(Gal 4:16)

NB: this article is, of necessity, hard-hitting. No apologies are offered for this stance.

This is a topic that many do not wish to talk or write about. It is one that I prefer not to write about either as I do not wish to be labelled as *harsh* or *judgmental*.

Yet there it is - laid out in the Scriptures for all to read, analyse, comprehend and to action where necessary. False brethren is a Biblical teaching and thus should not be ignored or swept under the carpet.

This is not some little thing but a serious issue that one must take note of for one's salvation. But not for one only, but for the sakes of other true brethren.

False brethren can take on all sorts of forms such as wolves, snakes, tares and such like. 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 or to do their dirty deeds for them, while they operate behind the scenes, manipulating the situation.

They can be:

1. Very subtle and surreptitious, deceiving others around them, swaying them against true Christians by lies, slander and deceit. Or sway others against the Truth
2. Some may start off slowly like a snake, but pick up speed over time – they spread their venom throughout the body politic. They become noticed but ignored. Sometimes they can be aggressive and repulsive, yet tolerated due to their networks or sympathy
3. They befriend others who cannot see the problems or blind themselves to these problems (eg sexual, slander, spreading false rumours, weird or even bizarre ideas)
4. You may well lose friends due to them as they undermine true Christians, spreading their lies, slander and venom
5. They will not take correction, but prefer to deny their wrong-doing and turn it upon you. Their next step is to run with cries of being offended by the correction to their friends to turn them against you.

As fakes, either knowingly doing the wrong thing or so deceived by Satan, perhaps some are not fully cognisant of the harm they cause to others.

Try to catch them out can be tricky as they are so slippery: twisting and turning; lying; getting their friends to cover for them; throw the issues back at you; denials; refusing to put in writing what they say to others and so forth. Rather dastardly!

“But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be **lovers of self**, lovers of money [including preference for the well off], proud, arrogant, **abusive**, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **heartless**, unappeasable, **slanderous**, without self-control, **brutal**, not loving good, **treacherous**, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and **capture weak women**, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also **oppose the truth**, men corrupted in mind and **disqualified** regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.” (II Tim 3:1-9)

They can capture those women who are weak (as well as men, one might add) seem to be led into sexual sins but also spiritual fornication by convincing them of all sorts of false doctrines and beliefs.

As Paul wrote, they are “heartless” or callous and couldn’t care if they hurt others; also he stated that they are “slanderous” which can include to be defamatory; and “treacherous” – that is truce-breakers and turncoats. These types will suddenly turn upon you and change sides carrying lies and gossip to the opposition (or even ministers) without any feeling of guilt. Their hearts have been completely hardened with their conscience seared.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith **by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared ...**” (ITim 4:1-2)

Searing one’s conscience means that they no longer care about the sin; nor the consequences for others.

Somehow they justify their actions, not willing to foresee the terrible eternal danger they put themselves in.

“The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, **the faithless**, the **detestable**, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, **and all liars**, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” (Rev 21:7-8)

Many years ago, I came across a group of these false brethren – wolves – that were key to destroying others and tearing the local congregation apart which helped me to understand these sorts. I kept a

watch ever since – not wishing to do so, but found it spiritually essential. In essence, this is a means one may track their means of operation.

Starting with general chatting about an innocent person this later (in conversations or over time) leads to idle gossip. Consumed with the need to be first with the news or to continue lying (even if from others and unsubstantiated or fraud is involved) they descend into slander which can become defamation:

General chat -> idle gossip -> slander (malicious gossip) -> defamation

They, like the Pharisees, assemble on the Sabbath and God's feast days (see Jude 12). To them the Sabbath is the most important commandment and sort of 'trumps' overall obedience and fruits. Eg lying or slander. In other words, by going to church services on the seventh day makes them feel righteous and good and the other laws fade into the background (whether it be God's stance on lying, abortion, homosexuality, various doctrines etc).

Instead of doing good, fulfilling the fruit of the spirit and blessings/beatitudes, they form groupings, slander, oppress others with their words and actions, will not help those in need, are selfish, justify their heartlessness, are callous and the list just goes on and on.

Author Scott Peck labels them "the people of the lie" and we shall read more about his research later in this study.

In this important Bible study we will explore the issues of false brethren who seem to 'come in and out' of their behaviours, thereby deceiving others and being deceived.

Rumors can make you dislike innocent people. Don't judge people off of what others are saying about them. Be wise, get to know them for yourself, then form your opinion. The one talking to you, may be the one you need to stay away from.

False Brethren

Wolves, hirelings and serpents are not limited to false ministers but can easily apply to a category of false brethren.

By *category* I mean there are all sorts of false brethren as there are false ministers.

Are they authentic or counterfeit members? How can you tell? Normally close friends and relatives cannot tell as they only see the good, social side of them. They hear snide remarks against others and assume that they are true. But they are lies or half-truths.

Have a read of IIPeter 2 to find out more about false vs genuine believers.

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

And many will **follow their sensuality**, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.

And in their greed **they will exploit you with false words**. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” (IIPet 2:1-3)

One website explains:

“The sixth characteristic of *tares* is revealed in this Petrine passage. Aptly here, Peter uses the synonyms of *false prophets and false teachers* to illustrate *tares*.

In this particular passage, Peter underscores many of the truths previously identified in this outline by Bible authors Jesus, Luke, and Paul, relative to ascertaining the existence and characteristics of *tares*. But here he adds another indication: they *follow their sensuality (aselgeia)*. These are those, he says, who are *among you* (indicating once again that *tares* will be a part of your everyday life). This may be a legislator on the floor who claims to be a “Christian” — but **yet is known for his or her sexual license [eg joining in dirty talk or looking the other way with certain serious sins]**. Beware! Scripture is helping you to see people for who they really are! Don’t be fooled! Not everyone who names the name of Christ is the real deal, my friend.” (<https://capmin.org/nine-characteristics-of-tares-the-believers-enemy/>) [emphasis mine]

Scattering of members by these false brethren can be selective just as their ostracism.

“Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word: **“Your brothers who hate you and cast you out for my name's sake** have said, ‘Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy’; but it is they who shall be put to shame.” (Is 66:5)

The below is based on the understanding of the meaning of the two trees of Genesis 3 long taught by the Church: one leads to life and the other to death; one exemplifies the way of GIVE vs the way of

GET. One is self-sacrifice and looking out for others and the other is selfishness; one is out to share and the other is that which imagines rivals and heads off any success they might have. One is jealous or envious, and the other has genuine outgoing concern for others.

One is an authentic follower of Christ and the other a wolf, tare or a serpent.

Notice the warning in an old Church of God publication over 60 years ago:

“You could be deceived by false brethren. Here is how you can recognize them...

In "The Complete Bible", AN AMERICAN TRANSLATION by Gordon-Goodspeed we read: "Many shall attach themselves in HYPOCRISY." **These people who attach themselves to God's Church assemble under false pretense. They are inwardly hypocritical, and flatter or deceive others...**

Ancient Israel also had many people who were not a fleshly part of the physical congregation (Church) in the wilderness. This MIXED MULTITUDE is mentioned in Exodus 12:38. "And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle." That is not the end of the story. Notice Numbers 11:4: "And the mixed multitude that was among them FELL A LUSTING: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, 'Who shall give us flesh to eat?'" The mixed multitude were the first to start lusting. Lusting — or coveting — is sin. The "mixed multitude" sinned and the children of Israel followed right after them.

This "mixed multitude" was instrumental in causing Israel to sin. It became so bad in the time of Jeremiah, that he had to completely separate the "mixed multitude" from the children of Israel.

In like manner, we must also beware of "false brethren" who are prophesied to come among us. In Paul's time false brethren came into the Church unawares. Paul states in Galatians 2:4 that "false brethren" came to spy out the spiritual liberty a true Christian has in Christ Jesus. They subtly seek to bring weaker brethren back into bondage of sin. They are also among us today, seeking to mislead weak brethren...

Some of you brethren look ON THE OUTSIDE, and are sometimes deceived!

Yes, many have joined themselves to God's Church, **MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED; but they have not yielded themselves to God. They are yet carnal!** There have always been those who have come among God's people — who have influenced weak brethren by their smooth and deceitful speech, their flatteries and their hypocrisy. You have been warned. You need not be deceived. Now is the time to be on your guard — to beware, lest you follow false brethren into the lake of fire." ("Beware of False Brethren!", *Good News*, January 1960, pp. 3, 12 by Leroy Neff). [emphasis mine]

Pertinent Scriptures

In the Old Testament, the mixed multitude were typological of false brethren or tares. See Ex 12:38; Num 11:4; Neh 13:3 for further information about these people.

David himself suffered at the hands of these types. For example:

“To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David. Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!
Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan,
because of the noise of the enemy, because of **the oppression of the wicked**. For
they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me.
My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.
And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest;
yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah.
I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest."
Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city.
Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it;
ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace.
**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.**
Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling
place and in their heart.
But I call to God, and the LORD will save me.
Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my
voice.
He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed
against me.
God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, Selah. because
they do not change and do not fear God.
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.**
Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the
righteous to be moved.
But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and
treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.” (Ps 55:1-23)

The parallel today would be called being “stabbed in the back” by a Church member one came to trust. Some are very crafty: they use subtlety and technique to gain entrance into your life, learning what they can to use against you. They can even make things up or listen to lies from others and then spread them so that you lose your friends. All this is hardly Christian, but a sign of wickedness. They are aware of this but are so addicted to their behaviours – like some sort of obsessive, compulsive behaviour disorder. It comes to the point that they can no longer help themselves, having seared their consciences and are unable to feel any remorse or guilt. They have become the tools of Satan.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; **for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.**

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"
(Ps 27:1-3, 12-14)

"Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me!

Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life! Let them be turned back and disappointed **who devise evil against me!**

Let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away!

Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them!
For without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my life.

Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me of things that I do not know.

They repay me evil for good; my soul is bereft.

But I, when they were sick— I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; I prayed with head bowed on my chest. [ie he did good for them with little or nothing in return but bad deeds]

I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother; as one who laments his mother, I bowed down in mourning.

But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered; they gathered together against me; wretches whom I did not know tore at me without ceasing;

Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye **who hate me without cause.**

For they do not speak peace, but **against those who are quiet in the land they devise words of deceit.**" (Ps 35:1,4-7, 11-15, 19-20)

"I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked." (Ps 26:4-5. Cf Rom 12:9 "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.")

"O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked." (Ps 97:10)

Now notice what is revealed in Proverbs:

"The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and **perverted speech I hate.**" (Prov 8:13)

"There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him:
haughty eyes, **a lying tongue,** and hands that shed innocent blood,
a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil [eg slander],
a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers."

(Prov 6:16-19)

In the New Testament the word for false brethren is *pseudádelphos*

“G5569 - Strong's Master Concordance

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance [Enhanced]

ψευδάδελφος (pseudádelphos | psyoo-dad'-el-fos | noun | false brother)

[Grk] ψευδάδελφος LN: 11.36 GK: G6012

Derivation: from ψευδής and ἀδελφός;

Strong's: a spurious brother, i.e. pretended associate

KJV: --false brethren.

See: ψευδής

See: ἀδελφός

Lexicon of Extended Strongs for Greek and Hebrew

ψευδάδελφος [G:N-M] false brother ψευδ-άδελφος, -ου, ό

a false brother: of professing Christians, Refs [2Co 11:26, Gal 2:4].†

(AS)

A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament by George Abbott-Smith

*† ψευδ-άδελφος, -ου, ό,

a false brother: of professing Christians, 2Co 11:26, Gal 2:4.†

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

ψευδάδελφος

pseudadelphos

psyoo-dad'-el-fos

From G5571 and G80; a spurious brother, that is, pretended associate: - false brethren.

A Greek-English Lexicon, Keyed to Strong's numbers - Liddell, Scott, Jones

ψευδ-άδελφος [ἄ], ό,

false brother, pretended Christian, 2Co 11:26, Gal 2:4, Gloss.

Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions, Thayer's Greek Definitions and Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries Combined

Original: ψευδάδελφος

Transliteration: pseudadelphos

Phonetic: psyoo-dad'-el-fos

Thayer Definition:

1. a false brother
2. one who ostentatiously professes to be a Christian, but is destitute of Christian knowledge and piety

Origin: from G5571 and G80

TDNT entry: 03:24,2

Part(s) of speech: Noun Masculine

Strong's Definition: From [G5571](#) and [G80](#); a *spurious brother*, that is, *pretended associate*: - false brethren.

Total KJV Occurrences: 2

false brethren (2)

2Co 11:26" (source: www.bibles.cloud/dictionaries/master/)

The apostle Paul mentions them on two occasions:

"... on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, **danger from false brothers**" (II Cor 11:26)

"Yet because of **false brothers secretly brought in**—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you." (Gal 2:4-5)

They often lurk secretly, like a wolf or even a snake hiding in the dark, waiting to pounce and strike spiritually, getting into the hearts and minds of members who then let down their guard and permit themselves to be poisoned.

Tactics Used

Some tactics used by false brethren:

- They slyly demean those they consider lesser or a rival. This is the poison of a serpent
- Even lying can be used to undermine the member by using whisper campaigns
- Run down or demean men that God has used to restore truths to the Church and do a Work. In contrast these wolves are fruitless
- Often they hold on to some very weird and strange ideas and forcefully promote it as truth
- They try and block the efforts of other to use their talents and gifts by not supporting them or undermining them
- They want to dominate and run almost everything. They will do these secretly with their inner groups, building networks and preventing participation by imagined rivals
- When found out they will not apologise or repent, but continue on with their godless behaviours.

Selfishness is the order of the day. As is callousness.

Subtlety is their *modus operandi*, and it works for them, because they are self-seeking. But it is deceitful.

"Now the serpent was more crafty [subtle, cunning, deceitful or treacherous] than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Gen 3:1. See also Gen 27:35; Prov 7:10; Matt 26:4; Acts 13:10)

How do they differ from false ministers? It is the same spirit, attitude, approach and results – scattering those they don't like by injuring or maiming them first. Ostracism is a means to this end.



They often spread weird and untrue doctrines. I do not mean alternative views that are well articulated and presented – without rudeness, force and condemning of others. I mean wacko stuff or even taking a true doctrine to an extreme and corrupting it and using church time as a debating chamber instead of a time for peace and unity (Eph 4:3).

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus [which includes using their gifts and talents] will be persecuted [including from within the Body], **while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse**, deceiving and being deceived.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it” (II Tim 3:12-14)

Note that they are imposters (seducers) lead many astray and caused division - by using gossip and slander. They pretend to be something they are not to get into people's minds and then work on them over time, gradually bending them in a way they wish. Hurting someone means nothing to them.

Addiction to Gossip and Slander

Because lying, slander and suchlike is paramount to false brethren, they have to continue using this method to ply their trade and destabilise God's people. This is the chief way of doing so without resorting to physical means.

An addiction to these sins (eg gossip and slander) and because it is so delightful to them that they will not change, even though they are aware of it. It is something that they want to continue to do even when their destructiveness is pointed out and proven, their belligerence is overwhelming. Any approach or use of Matt 18:15 is met with denials and running to friends and associates to complain and whine, getting them onside.

The cycle is thereby perpetuated and the sin not repented of.

Unfortunately, they seemingly suffer some sort of obsessive compulsive behaviour disorder.

In addition, it is an enjoyable game: keep a straight face while pretending to not knowing what they are doing. They do this by pretending to be something they are not or by taunting you; playing games; constantly changing direction, views and stances. They think this will confuse you and will put you off the scent.

One of their tactics is to throw aspersions at others – this way they diminish any attention on themselves and their antics. Very clever and it works for them!

Because they are *people of the lie!*

When confronted they misuse or hide behind Scriptures such as

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account." (Matt 5:11)

But all things must be tempered with wisdom. If damage is so bad and your name sullied (Prov 22:1; Eccl 7:1) where you are being caused mental harm and mistreatment, you must act lest you end up in a heap due to their psychological practices upon you (many cannot see this happening). There is no Scripture saying leave everything for God to do. That is just an excuse for laziness and cowardice.

Cherry picking Scriptures to try and help one escape correction is part of the ploy. Another is Matt 18:21-22 and 6:21 (endless forgiveness). But forgiveness is not the same as letting the person constantly harass you and to destroy your life, breaking God's law, the Church's policies and even man's laws.

Instead forgiving them includes helping them and that might be an unpleasant experience for them. If they will not let go persecuting you, hurting you, the Church and loved ones, then action must come (Rom 16:17).

Concerning the lies spread by certain ones, they hide behind ICor 6:1. But look at the context which is ICor 5:9-6:18. Let us read this entire section:

"I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

But now I am writing to you **not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler**—not even to eat with such a one.

For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you." (ICor 5:9-13)

This shows that the Church is meant to have its own neutral court or judiciary to look into serious matters such as defamation. But what if it doesn't have such system of justice in place?

“When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?” (1Cor 6:1)

Again, this implies a neutral court within the Church.

“Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?

I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers,

but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?

But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,

nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”

But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.” (1Cor 6:2-18)

If there is no resolution within the Church or no internal court, what is one to do?

The above Scripture infers slander or even defamation. It assumes a local congregational neutral court system and a higher court in the church, modelled along that of the synagogue which I have written about before. So, as there is no court system in today's church, the only way to have one's name restored after the defamation and/or abuses, is to take this avenue. But they cover for each other and redacting goes on.

So, please be aware that one can:

1. Sign a statutory declaration
2. Pay for and go on a lie detector
3. Bring in witnesses
4. Show files, diaries and notes
5. Sit down with anyone eyeball to eyeball and go through this with them.

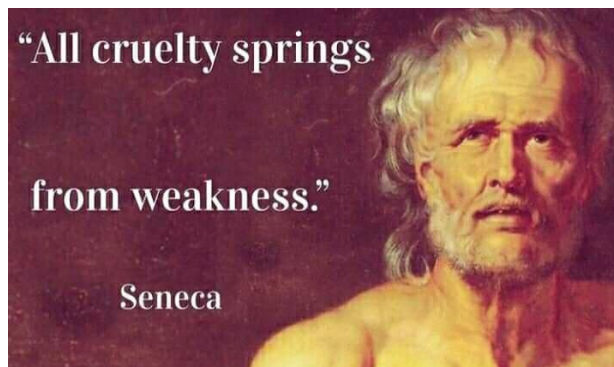
Slander and defamation are serious matters and must be attended to. Letting them continue is just not Christian.

Character Assassination

Please read the following very carefully:

“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?
But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,
but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
having a good conscience, so that, **when you are slandered**, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” (1Pet 3:13-16)

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When **he lies**, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)



Slander or malicious gossip is character assassination – ie spiritual murder with the aim to have the person ostracised and pushed out. Satan was the first one to attempt this.

The best revenge is massive success even though undermined with attempts to prevent the success (eg seminars, studies, publications, presentations). One tactic a minister told me he uses against members he is opposed to (or jealous of) is to just ignore things like events members organise and to encourage others to similarly do so. They ‘forget’ to mention that they also present the innocent in a bad light to others and especially to ministers.

“To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David. Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods? Do you judge the children of man uprightly?

No, in your hearts you devise wrongs; your hands deal out violence on earth.

The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.

They have venom like the venom of a serpent, like the deaf adder that stops its ear, so that it does not hear the voice of charmers or of the cunning enchanter.

O God, break the teeth in their mouths; tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!

Let them vanish like water that runs away; when he aims his arrows, let them be blunted.

Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime, like the stillborn child who never sees the sun.

Sooner than your pots can feel the heat of thorns, whether green or ablaze, may he sweep them away!

The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked.

Mankind will say, “Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth.”” (Ps 58:1-11)

Tactics today would be a bit different and instead of any physical violence, court cases or jail time may be the modern equivalent.

“O LORD, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, shine forth!

Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve!

O LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult?

They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast.

They crush your people, O LORD, and afflict your heritage.

They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless; [or anyone in need or underprivileged]

and they say, “The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive.”

Understand, O dullest of the people! Fools, when will you be wise?

He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see?

He who disciplines the nations, does he not rebuke? He who teaches man knowledge—

the LORD—knows the thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.

Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law,

to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked.

For the LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage;

for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it.

Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers?

If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.

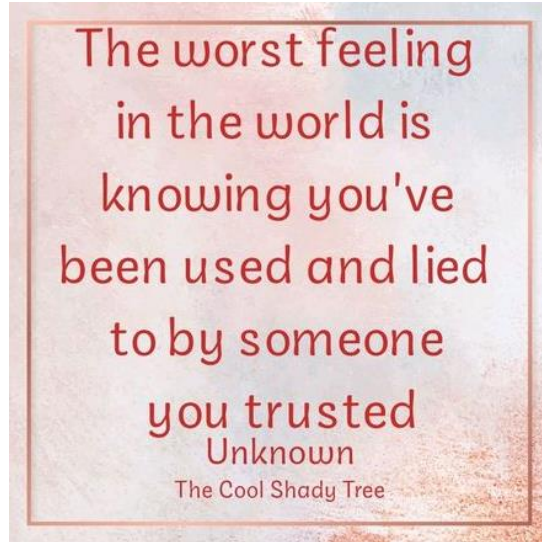
When I thought, “My foot slips,” your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.

When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute?

They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.

But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.
He will bring back on them their iniquity and wipe them out for their wickedness; the LORD our God will wipe them out.” (Ps 94:1-23)



We can apply the above to spiritual and not only physical killings.

My Mum used to say that such people just don't know that God sees and observes all things and will deal with it, but usually you have to do your part. "Don't just let others wipe their feet all over you and treat you like dirt" she used to say. You should stand up to them and let others know what they are doing.

The false brethren are so unaware of God observing them one must wonder if they are atheists! They cannot see the danger they put themselves in and couldn't care about the damage they do to others: spiritual, social, physical, mental.

These are tools in the hands of Satan – used by him to hurt others who may even fall away from God as a result of their attacks.

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, **but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!**” (Matt 18:7)

“And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but **woe to the one through whom they come!**

“**It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea** than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.” (Luke 17:1-2)

For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb 10:30-31)



**Satan is not fighting
churches; he is joining them.**
facebook.com/StopPlayingChurch
**He does more harm by
sowing tares than by pulling
up wheat. He accomplishes
more by imitation
than by outright opposition.**

Hounding by False Brethren

Wolves can be false ministers or false brethren, not merely the former.

I outline briefly below the sad experience of a man – now deceased. He was very bright, multi-talented and gifted in a way that brought people together. He did not harm anyone, but could be a little silly from time-to-time. Let's call him ABC in lieu of his real name.

One very odd fellow who clearly had mental health problems hounded ABC mercilessly for years and years due to some extremely minor teasing.

This person was one who had a bizarre upbringing, would lock on to anyone friendly with ABC and consider them as enemies too who then would also be hounded and pursued. One side of us thought he should be able to control his strange behaviours; the other side of us thought that he had such a mental deficit that he couldn't. Who knows?

But the devastation he wrought in combination with others still has repercussions to this day in the church. It is as if one threw a stone into a pond with the ripples just keep on coming for years and decades.

THAT is how powerful the forces of negativity are. That is the way of Satan.

“Do they not go astray who devise evil? Those who devise good meet steadfast love and faithfulness.” (Prov 14:22)

Either way, due to the various behaviours and things he did, he was quietly suspended (not disfellowshipped) from the congregation for his behaviours without knowledge of or any input from any of us. He was later let back into church attendance. But no sooner had the pastor been transferred a couple of years later to another congregation, he unleashed all hell on innocent people.

He ran to the new pastor who was best friends with the other pastor in the city and lied about and denounced this man (ABC). But not just him, also others that were ABC's friends! Due to his paranoia, they were all thought to be this person's enemy just because they were friends with the persecuted one (ABC)! This was 1987-90.

“Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.
Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy.”
(Prov 12:19-20)

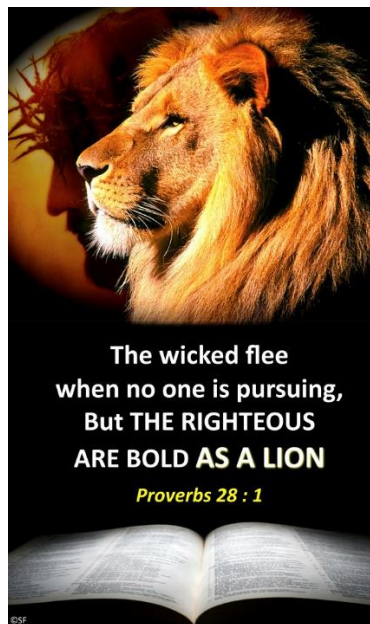
“**Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it**, because it is in the power of their hand.” (Mic 2:1.
Refer also to Ps 36:4; 140:2; Prov 6:14, 18; 15:26; 24:8; Lam 3:62; Hos 7:6)

Spiritual wolves can be very devious and underhanded and seek assistance by those who have a gripe against someone else.

Then others got in on the act: another man who was jealous of ‘competitors’ in the dating scene! And another trying to cover his tracks (but pretending to be the victim and using emotion to swing the ministry). These three and a woman in the other congregation decided to get the ministry inside behind the backs of those they had targeted and to sweep out of the church those they considered enemies, or they knew were opposed to the doctrinal changes. The story behind them is also one that is bizarre but well documented and recalled given the damage they did to so many over time. This, I am sure, is not unique to that congregation because one hears stories about similar matters from other places. Because Satan is involved all over the place – his tentacles are spread across the world.

The outcome was a congregation that lost horrendous numbers of members. Especially single ladies: distressed and bullied many left in fear; others moved interstate or to other church congregations to gain solace; another had a nervous breakdown and such like. Within 9 months the new pastor caused horrific mauling and bleeding to the local congregation which began a non-stop process of loss of members.

While I have witnessed ruthlessness in other areas, the new minister and his friend unleashed spiritual killing fields. It was like a madness had come upon the local congregation that reminds one of the frenzy of stabbings one reads about in the media that happens from time-to-time. But this time it was the spilling of the blood of the saints. These evil wolves of Satan seemed to enjoy murdering and dismembering the children of God. We have never witnessed such extreme, cultic, callous and godless behaviours in our lives.



The entire atmosphere under the new pastor was terrible in comparison to the former pastor: night vs day; unhappiness vs a happy congregation; fear vs a relaxed environment; a stratified and divided church vs a family. It was something only a Satanic agent could do with the assistance of his pastoral friend in a nearby congregation. The two together went forth to trample on and destroy the congregations under the pretext of supposedly “cleaning it up”. It was most distressful to witness.

The congregation was left mauled and bleeding to which there are witnesses and very upset people to this day.

The cultic behaviour and lying was unleashed by an evil force that one could sense or 'feel' – one that was rather spooky and felt like it was cutting through one. A cold and gloomy or cloudy feeling followed these people and especially the wolf pastor. There was clearly demonic influence led by the god of this world.

Guilt by Association

You know the old saying about keeping company with the right sort of people because you could be sullied by bad company. However, there is a time for not avoiding people who need help of course, unless they are troublesome (Ps 141:4-5; Prov 13:20; 14:7; ICor 15:33) because all things should be tempered by wisdom.

Some people need our help or just to be there as they struggle on. This is just common human decency let alone a prime Christian attribute.

However, one may pay the cost and be lumped in with that person being helped – a very unkind and disgraceful way to view someone, but that is what they want to do. Then after assigning one to that person's sins or weaknesses, spread that within their family and among their friends causing ostracism. This is their tactic.

Christ Himself was similarly gossiped about and slandered for keeping company with those in need. See for instance Matt 11:18-19; Luke 5:29-32; 19:5-7.

“For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.” (Luke 7:33-35)

Now let us look at an example of the evil we have been discussing.

A few years into his tenure (1992), a false minister came to visit me to find out more about ABC to 'get something' on him – I would not be party to such disgusting behaviours and refused to cooperate as ABC did nothing bad to anyone or such like. I had no knowledge of anything terrible he could have done so had no information anyhow. The pastor was not happy but that was just too bad. He treated me horribly during the session but not as bad as on the other occasions three years previous as the new replacement regional director was righting wrongs across the country.¹

Treating me or anyone like a child and he like one's father is not the role of an elder. Misapplying Scriptures that Christians are the children of God as if we were to be treated like (or worse than) children by a minister is a big 'no no'.

¹ I wrote the following to a ministerial friend who suffered under these wolves in an e-mail: “Back in 1990 [the regional director] wrote to me stating how strange it was [how I was mistreated] without a legitimate reason (except that I was supposedly trying to ‘set yourself up’, ‘publish books like Dankenbring’ but no due process was undertaken etc). He was clearly not too impressed by the actions of xxxxxx and xxxxxx. I made several copies of that letter and it is somewhere in a folder in a box. I can find it but it would mean lifting heavy boxes and would take me quite some time.” (21 Aug 2013) I have since found that letter and a whole lot more evidence.

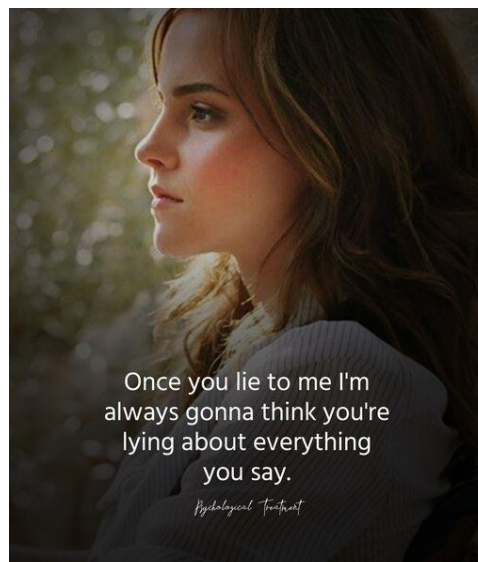
Having had enough of the madness I wrote to the new regional director (upon advice) to inform him of the situation and mentioned in the letter that I already had God the Father in my life and a human father and didn't need a third one! The false minister backed off but was seething because he was so used to getting his way like a spoilt brat. Eventually he was moved on to 'pastor' another congregation due to the enormity of complaints and the mammoth damage he and his pastoral friend did to their congregations, when they should have been sacked.

Defamation

Many years later these two wolves were in touch with a minister in another group and fabricated things that were not true to cover what they did to members previously. In the world they would have paid the legal penalty for defamation.

The brutishness that occurred must be recorded for posterity – “why?” you ask. Because my Mother used to teach and warn me about all sorts of things during my childhood and teenage years. One of them is that these sorts of people have ‘something wrong with them’ and you will always be an imagined enemy, even when you haven't done anything to them. But there are always the apologists for such men who say we must “forgive and forget” because they want to cover up these traits and allow them to perpetuate. But forgetting is not wise because lessons must be learned and systems put in place to minimise the wolves that harm the body of Christ. The Bible itself does not forget certain situations and records them for our learnings (eg 1Cor 10:6).

They (false ministers and false brethren) will come at you again and again – if they cannot get away with it in an all-out frontal war mode, they will work subtly behind the scenes, slyly and silently like a submarine, to undermine you. They will come at you again and try to get at you without even knowing why they do it. That is because an evil force lurks with or even within them. Their leader who influences them – is the one who is at the helm of wolf packs – the god of this world.



ABC stated that he never wanted to leave the church because (and this was just one reason of course) once you leave, you are considered the bad guy. And people will begin to gossip and untruths spread that then becomes difficult to counter. But he eventually left anyway due to the non-stop madness and lack of love and outgoing concern.

ABC and I (and others) kept in contact and went to gatherings etc together occasionally, but alas, he died several years ago, and I attended his memorial service with a number of people I once associated with in my old church, plus his family. His persecutor turned up which was amazing, but he showed no remorse, feeling nor empathy and acted like a sterile robot as usual. It was just a day out for him.

Some in attendance decided to go out for a social gathering after the memorial service but didn't invite him due to his weirdness and brutality which they were very much aware of.

So, beware the tools of Satan! As the Bible itself warns us.

Pray for the wisdom to stand and fight them; or use tactical means to offset them; or to avoid them. It all depends on the situation.

Of these people of the lie, Satan's wolves who lie, slander and defame, Christ Himself says:

"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

They emulate their master, the devil.



GOSSIP IS SPREAD BY
WICKED PEOPLE; THEY
STIR UP TROUBLE AND
BREAK UP FRIENDSHIPS.
(PROVERBS 16:28 GNT)

The People of the Lie

One book that reveals the mentality and operations of these sorts of false brethren that undermine the faith of many is *People of the Lie* by Scott Peck (1936-2005). An important book for Christians to read. He was a psychiatrist who, through his own experiences and research, led him to write this book that is now famous around the world.

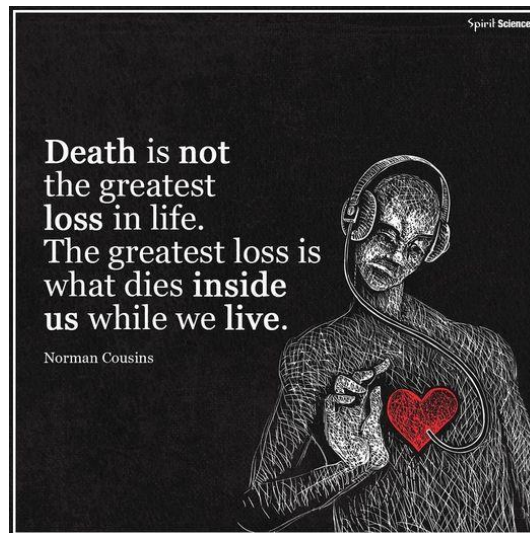
One may start with John 9:39-41 where we can see the narcissism, lack of empathy and outgoing concern for others by the Pharisees. Their self-will, sliminess, backing each other up regardless of corrupt practice and so on are the order of the day of these types. Yet there they were, within the congregation of God's people, leading many astray and glorifying themselves.

“Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”

Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.” (John 9:39-41)

You can read more about these “people of the lie” in Matt 9:10-13; 23:25-28; Luke 18:9-14 – a people with outward appearance of being so good, but inside filled with venom and hatred toward the flock and scattering it.



Of course, Peck does take into account that the narcissist could have mental disorders due to a number of factors (eg by birth, chemical imbalances, abuse and so forth), however his view is that this double personality type, deceiving others appears to straddle both the mental/psychiatric disorder and the spiritual. To which I would add that they are thus possibly giving themselves over to demonic influences if not possession.

They seemingly are aware of their tactics of deceit, yet continue in that vein until it imprints upon them and becomes a part of their nature. Perhaps, I ask myself, are they so self-blinded due to their self-will

(much like the Pharaoh – see Ex 8:32; 9:34)² that it is very difficult to overcome and repent of? Their belligerence and refusal to be reasonable has seriously affected their salvation and can also impact the salvation of others. As such they are probably sociopaths.

Pray for their apologies and repentance (1Cor 5:5).

“... and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,

but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matt 18:3-6)

Not receiving God’s children and offending or scattering them will result in the most terrifying fate anyone could possibly imagine:

“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but **a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.**

Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? [cp Matt 12:31-32]

For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb 10:26-31)

They are seemingly oblivious to their fate, yet they continue with their obsession of trying to look so perfect due to their self-deception.

Of course, “people of the lie” are not comprised solely by certain types of leaders; it can apply to false brethren too who undermine the talents and opportunities of members they imagine as rivals. Envy is a terrible thing.

Relevant Extracts from Peck’s Book

Here are some important extracts from Peck’s book which we would do well to consider:

“It is necessary that we first draw the distinction between evil and ordinary sin. It is not their sins per se that characterize evil people ... **The central defect of the evil is not the sin but the refusal to acknowledge it**” (p. 69)

² NB: Ten times God hardens his heart; three times the Pharaoh hardens his own heart; and six times it seems ambiguous and we are told that the Pharaoh’s heart was hardened.

“When I say that evil has to do with killing, I do not mean to restrict myself to corporeal murder. **Evil is that which kills spirit.** There are various essential attributes of life -- particularly human life -- such as sentience, mobility, awareness, growth, autonomy, will. It is possible to kill or attempt to kill one of these attributes without actually destroying the body. Thus we may "break" a horse or even a child without harming a hair on its head.” (p. 44)

Killing the spirit – will, joy and energy in others is evil. It immobilises or hamstring them and even an entire congregation. Such is the powerful negativity of the tares and wolves. Yes, they remove the “joy of salvation” making the Christian experience one of toil and unnecessary problems (Ps 16:8-11; 21:1-7; 35:9; Matt 9:2; Luke 10:19-20; John 16:24; Rom 5:11; 14:17).

They can be in a position to cast their shadow and influence over a congregation to the extent that it eventually reflects that of the influencer:

“The evil create for those under their dominion a miniature sick society.” (p. 124)

“Malignant narcissism is characterized by an unsubmitted will. All adults who are mentally healthy submit themselves one way or another to something higher than themselves, be it God or truth or love or some other ideal...They believe in what is true rather than what they would like to be true. In summary, to a greater or lesser degree, all mentally healthy individuals submit themselves to the demands of their own conscience.

Not so the evil, however...They are men and women of obviously strong will, determined to have their own way.” (p. 78)

“While they seem to lack any motivation to *be* good, they intensely desire to appear good. Their "goodness" is all on a level of pretense. It is, in effect, a lie. That is why they are the "people of the lie". The wickedness of the evil is not committed directly, but indirectly as a part of this cover-up process.” (p. 76)



“Those who are evil are masters of disguise; they are not apt to wittingly disclose their true colors--either to others or to themselves ... Because they are such experts at disguise, it is seldom possible to pinpoint the maliciousness of the evil. The disguise is usually impenetrable ... Naturally, since it is designed to hide its opposite,

the pretense chosen by the evil is most commonly the pretense of love.” (pp. 104, 76, 106)

Their charade is not always easy to notice. For example they may be an adulterer, gambler, heretic or homosexual – but they practice these sins and keep them deeply hidden instead of admitting to them and overcoming. The addiction is just too powerful.

“The evil hate the light--the light of goodness that shows them up, the light of scrutiny that exposes them, the light of truth that penetrates their deception” (p. 179).

“Rather than blissfully lacking a sense of morality, like the sociopath, **they are continually engaged in sweeping the evidence of their evil under the rug** of their own consciousness.” (p. 76)

“[Evil is] the use of power to destroy the spiritual growth of others for the purpose of defending and preserving the integrity of our own sick selves. In short, it is scapegoating.” (p. 119)

“A predominant characteristic ... of the behavior of those I call evil is scapegoating. Because in their hearts they consider themselves above reproach, they must lash out at any one who does reproach them. They sacrifice others to preserve their self-image of perfection.

Since the evil, deep down, feel themselves to be faultless, it is inevitable that when they are in conflict with the world they will invariably perceive the conflict as the world's fault. **Since they must deny their own badness, they must perceive others as bad.**

They project their own evil onto the world. They never think of themselves as evil; on the other hand, they consequently see much evil in others...Evil, then, is most often committed in order to scapegoat, and the people I label as evil are chronic scapegoaters ...The evil attack others instead of facing their own failures.” (pp. 73-74)

“There is a brand of narcissism so total **that they seem to lack, in whole or in part, the capacity for empathy**...Their narcissism makes the evil dangerous not only because it motivates them to scapegoat others but also because it deprives them of the restraint that results from empathy and respect for others.

In addition to the fact **that the evil need victims to sacrifice to their narcissism, their narcissism permits them to ignore the humanity of their victims as well ...The blindness of the narcissist to others can extend even beyond a lack of empathy; narcissists may not "see" others at all.**

There are boundaries to the individual soul. And in our dealings with each other we generally respect these boundaries. It is characteristic of--and prerequisite for--mental health both that our own ego boundaries should be clear and that we should clearly recognize the boundaries of others. We must know where we end and others begin.” (pp. 136-37) [emphasis mine throughout]

The "people of the lie" are evil and imbed their evil in the organisation or group they reside in via their influences or training others to be like themselves and how to get away with it - and thereby continue the evil on generationally through the body politic. The only solution is a purge of these sorts. All they do is take away the joy of salvation and happiness within the Body (Ps 51:12; Rom 14:17; IPet 1:8).

To wrap up this section, we can see key aspects of their behaviours:

- Create or invent sins that were not committed and then even impose them on people. This is slander or defamation
- They spread this among their fellows including ministers in other groups
- Run for cover, protecting each other when found out. This entails ever more lying
- Practice redacting in one form or another
- The problems is thus continued and perpetuated.

There are many witnesses to their behaviours and long-term destructiveness.

"Do not admit a charge against an elder **except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.**

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality." (ITim 5:19-21)



So What's the Difference between Abusive Ministers and False Brethren?

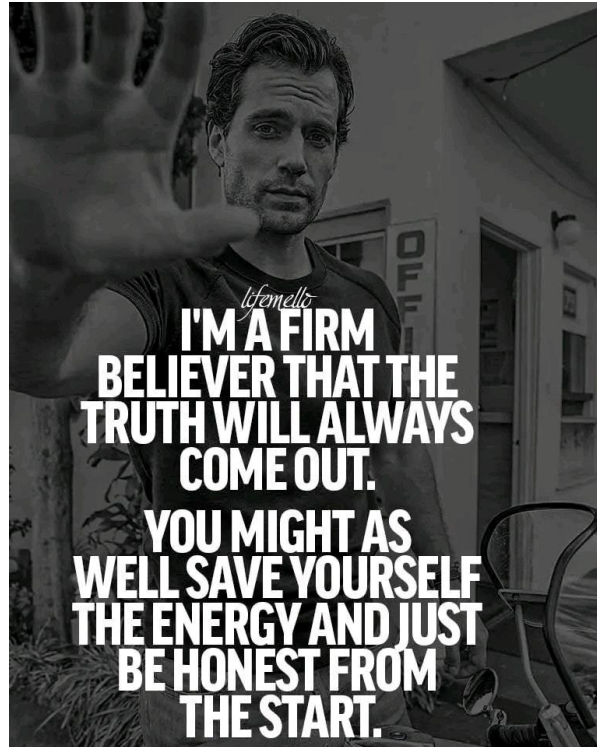
Below, in table form the issues that have gone on are compared between ministers and members who operate similarly – the approach and methods are the same!

Minister	Ring-leader
Orchestrates campaigns against those they are jealous of or dislikes, keeping a level or two away from the action, using others to do their dirty work. This way they seem innocent. Operating silently like a submarine, subtly undermining others.	Orchestrates campaigns against those they are jealous of or dislikes, keeping a level or two away from the action, using others to do their dirty work. This way they seem innocent. Operating silently like a submarine, subtly undermining others.

Opposed to initiatives of others over years and undermined them. Undermines or tries to take over one's initiatives	Opposed to initiatives of others over years. Undermines or tries to take over one's initiatives
Shouts at people to get out of the church during meetings if one stands up for the church's doctrines	Not very supportive of the doctrines etc. Shouts at people at events and shoos away from a seat and forced to sit on the outskirts
His supporters similarly shouted at people suddenly, inexplicably over time	Shouts at people on occasions for no reason. One was "go, go, go" (ie get out). It was like something took them over and they could not explain the behavior. It was unprovoked
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 some	Tells lies about some
'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 church clubs and working groups	Closed down sites, studies or tries 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 few favourites	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 they can to prevent participation by members	Tries to prevent participation by others
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 the Church preached 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.



What a Christian can do to Counter Abuse from False Brethren

From my own observations it seems that the more false ministers (or false prophets) and false brethren there are in a church or congregation, the greater the likelihood of apostasy.

We do not wish to be party to an apostasy, now do we? Therefore we need a strategy to survive their assaults.

So, first of all keep close to God in prayer, study, fellowship with true believers, stand up for yourself and expose the evil. Never compromise and seek the best for the flock. Try and find a genuine circle of authentic believers to stay true to the beliefs and way of life God has revealed.

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, **but instead expose them.**” (Eph 5:11) (eg abuse, bullying, slander and lies)

Don't be judgmental and assume that this or that person is a false brother. Their attitudes and approaches (especially the subtle ones) will eventually expose them over time. But you must be wary because if they cannot find something demeaning and undermining of you, they will fabricate one (refer to Rom 1:30 re “inventors of evil”)! They will always find an excuse to do so.

The bottom line is that they have the spirit of competition which leads them to these awful actions.

Some pertinent Scriptures should be read in this regard:

“Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but **they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.” (IJohn 2:18-19)

Of course, not all false ones leave the Church to gain a following or to leave the Truth. Many stay behind to perpetuate their evils rather like the Pharisees of old.

“Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, **ungodly people**, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ ...

These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, **showing favoritism to gain advantage** [eg encourage sycophants].” (Jude 1:3-4, 16)

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.

And then many will fall away and **betray one another and hate one another**.
And **many false prophets will arise** and lead many astray.
And because lawlessness will be increased, the **love of many will grow cold**.
But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matt 24:9-13)

This, unfortunately, has been an ongoing problem since the first century.

“He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, **his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat** and went away.
So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.
And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’
He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’
But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, **“Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned**, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’” (Matt 13:24-30)

If you are abused and slandered, make a record of it and share this with family and friends. For instance, I wrote to my parents of my torrid situation due to false brethren and abuse in a letter dated 29 May 1990 (I have maintained huge records):

“He [God] is building in me a character [so] that [one] can stand on his own 2 feet. I was 3 years on my own (so to speak) in P.E. [= Port Elizabeth] with no Church in my area. I have done it before, I can do it again. After 17 ½ years the wolves got to me (see Acts 20:29 - the Greek here means “oppressive wolves”). Please look up each of these verses. See especially IIIJohn 9-10; John 6:37!

Then see how Christ says [what] pastors shouldn’t be like to His brethren:- Leviticus 25:43; Matthew 20:25-27; Mark 10:42-44; Luke 22:25; Matthew 24:48-51; Luke 12:45-46; Jeremiah 12:10; Jeremiah 5:26-31; Proverbs 18:5; 28:15-17; I Tim 3:1-3; II Tim 3:13; Titus 1:7; II Chron 19:6-7; II Cor 10:8; 4:2; 6:3-4; Ezekiel 34:4; Jeremiah 23:1-2; 50:6; Zechariah 7:9-10 (please look up these verses).

So, as you can see, Christ will eventually deal TERRIBLY with wolf-like ministers who cause fear and lord it over God’s children. Their fate is clearly described in Matt. 24:48-51.”

My parents were resultantly very disconcerted and upset by all this unnecessary drama but lived too far from me to see them regularly. After all, they gave the go-ahead for me to attend that Church group in 1973 and now this! They were disgusted and wondered if they did the right thing after all.

Over the years they received the Church’s literature and agreed with most of it, but did not feel drawn to join the Church. They even visited campaigns and enjoyed the company of visits from ministers in

South Africa and Australia. My Mum in particular liked Ken Lewis and Ken McLeod who she said were “officers and gentlemen.”

But when a strangely behaved and weird minister came over for a visit (a wolf) she said that she didn’t want him visiting ever again. That he was nothing that came close to a Christian minister. He behaved aloof, cold, staring at us, rude, gruff, sinister and just downright weird. He also exuded a strange, cutting atmosphere that emanated out from him. His eyes seem to show that something else was lurking behind those eyes of hate. It didn’t take much for her to see what he was.

Amazingly, this was the same pastor that relocated to the area I moved to some years later and tore the congregation apart.

The willing tools of the Devil have a terrible fate. Our prayer is for them to acknowledge their sin and to repent.



Concluding Remarks

False brethren may often appear to be genuine – yet they are not authentic. Their family and friends are not able to discern this in most cases as they are too close to them: they are either unaffected by their insidious and dangerous plotting and actions and thus oblivious; or they are couldn't care, turning a eye blind eye, somehow justifying their sins and attacks upon the body of Christ.

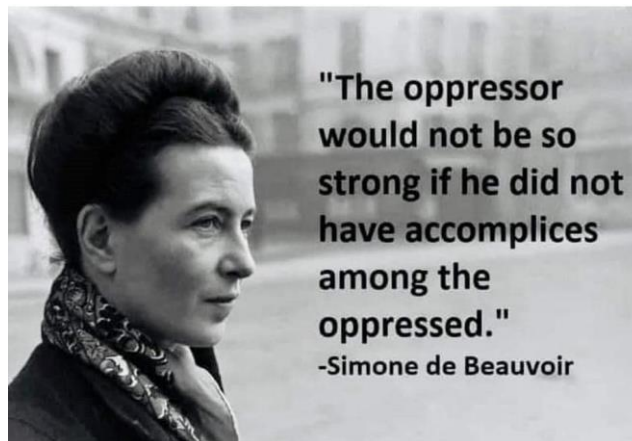
Spiritual wolves can confront and attack you in packs or in gangs; or like vipers they can slyly poison others and their attitude toward you playing the same game as their instigator, the subtle serpent – Satan himself.

But Christians should and must stand up to them for their own salvation's sakes and to help others troubled by these deceivers.

"Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, [how? Answer:]
learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause [or anyone underprivileged or in need or abused by false brethren. If you do this, then this is the outcome:].
"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." (Is 1:17-19)

"**Hate evil, and love good**, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph." (Amos 5:15)

Replace inactivity with action such as justice, fairness, equity and to stand up to abuse and slander by false brethren – this is all part and parcel of being a Christian warrior. They are an aspect of living like Christ and having our sins forgiven so that we are spiritually white as snow. Lying down and taking abuse or not standing up for others, is not being like Christ. Instead we must put on the mind of Christ (for further information on what the 'mind of Christ' actually is, refer to pages 5-7 in the article *What is Justice?* listed below).



If any false brethren or wolf are reading this, if the hat fits, wear it. It is time to repent. Or you can continue to undermine the brethren with slander or drawing them away into false ideas and practices.

Finally, the following related articles should be read in conjunction with this one (click on them for access):

- [**A Genuine Minister with the Heart of a Shepherd? Or Fudging it?**](#) - identifies a minister who tries to look the part but is obviously without the ability and unwilling to executed his duties while drawing a salary
- [**A Short Note on Paul's "Thorn in the Flesh". What is it?**](#) – there was a ‘monkey on his back’ that Satan unleashed but used by God for His purposes
- [**Are Ministers Priests or Elders? Questions and Answers**](#) – is the ministry really a priesthood; is it a blend of priest and elder? Or only an elder and if so, how doe these functions differ?
- [**Christians Helping Each Other**](#) – almost completely overlooked, the Scriptures condemning social factions, favouritism and ostracism. Instead, they are supposed to treat each other as brothers and sisters
- [**Do Ministers sit on Moses Seat?**](#) – some claim that elders sit on this seat in judgment. But is that the case and is this Church doctrine?
- [**Jealousy & Envy in Scripture**](#) – these are driving forces to undermine and destroy the good works and spiritual gifts of others
- [**They have their Reward**](#) – some people seek to trample over others to achieve their goals – my Mother used to say (based on the Scriptures) that they have their reward in this life for their egotistic efforts, not in the next
- [**What is Inspiration?**](#) – some think that they are in the same league as patriarchs, prophets, apostles or a King David – but are they inspired like them?
- [**What is Justice? The Biblical Requirement for Neutral Judiciaries**](#) – with so much injustice and lack of resolution of major issues (such as those described in this article), how can the be addressed with a fair outcome and the continuation of abuses eliminated?

“Do not drag me off with the wicked, with the workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts.

Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds; give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.

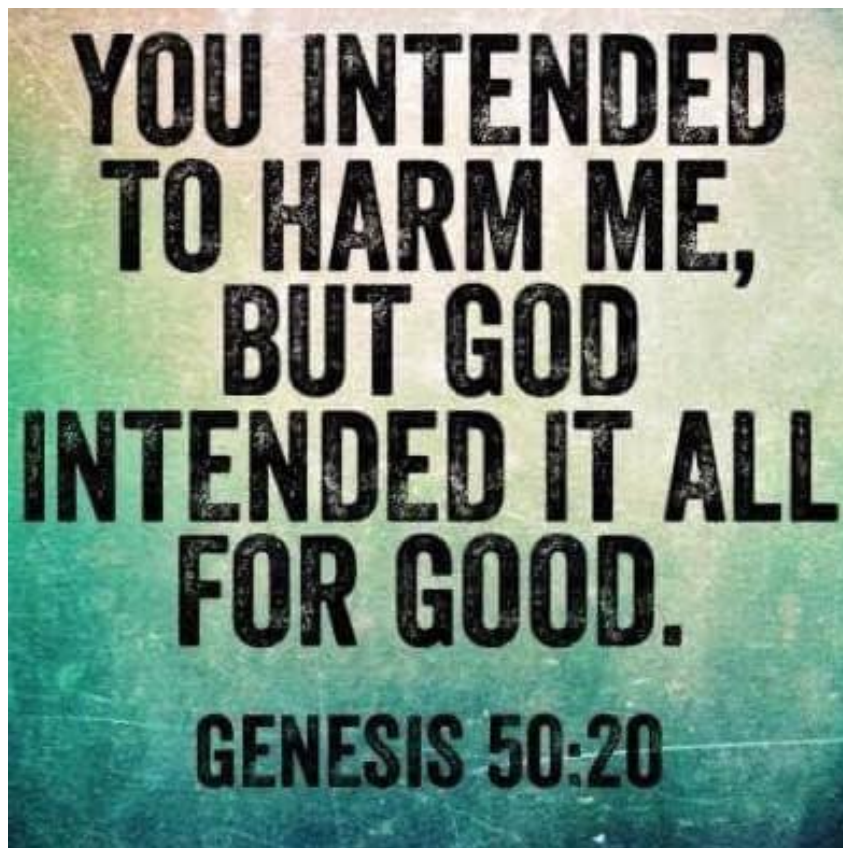
Because they do not regard the works of the LORD or the work of his hands, he will tear them down and build them up no more.

Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.” (Ps 28:3-7)

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What the Bible says about False Brethren

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These are grumblers, complainers,
walking according to their own lusts;
and they mouth great swelling
words, flattering people to gain
advantage. But you, beloved,
remember the words which were
spoken before by the apostles of our
Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you
that there would be mockers in the
last time who would walk according
to their own ungodly lusts. These are
sensual persons, who cause
divisions, not having the Spirit.
Jude 1:16-19 NKJV