



Review: Separation from the Dark Side: 1 Pet 4:3-4, Illustration: Casey Hunt's Review of George Lucas's *Star Wars: Episode III-Revenge of the Sith*; 1 Cor 7:1-6

7. Separation is therefore necessary under a number of circumstances presented by the Dark Side and those who promote its lifestyle.

Peter alerts believers who were once part of the Dark Side about the persecution they will receive from their old acquaintances:

1 Peter 4:3 - [Net Bible] For the time that has passed was sufficient for you to do what unbelievers desire. You lived then in debauchery [ἀσέλγεια, aselgeia: varied perversions associated with sexual sins], evil desires [ἐπιθυμία, epithumia: over or beyond thumos: which originally meant “passions” & “desires” which are normal but the prefix epi- denotes what goes beyond these are excessive and refers to the lust patterns of the sinful nature], drunkenness [οἴνοφλυγία, oinophlugia: οἶνος, oinos: wine, plus φλύω, phluō: bubble up, i.e., drunk with wine], carousing [κῶμος, kōmos: feasts accompanied by drunkenness and orgies in honor of Bacchus, the god of wine: bacchanalia], boozing [πότος, potos: a drinking party], wanton idolatries [ἀθέμιτος εἰδωλολατρεία, athemitos eidōlolaiteia: unlawful sexual activity associated with the phallic cult];

v. 4 - So they [the unbelievers] are astonished [ξενίζω, xenizō: think it strange] when you do not rush with them into the same flood of wickedness [ἀσῳτία ἀνάχυσις, asōtia anachusis: extravagant pouring forth of self-indulgence], and they villify [βλασφημέω, blasphemēō: to be excessively critical of your norms and standards] you.

An excellent illustration of being compromised by the Dark Side is provided by the six episodes of the *Star Wars* movies. I am not an expert on this subject but I did see *Episode III* and saw the transformation of Anakin Skywalker away from the Force enjoyed by the Jedi knights and over to the Dark Side.

It was obvious that Palpatine's propaganda was effective in converting Anakin but I do not have the depth of knowledge to properly use the series as an in depth illustration of the of the believer's effort to keep from being compromised by the spiritual world's Dark Side. But Casey Hunt is an expert and he crafted an e-mail to me in which he draws excellent comparisons between *Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith* and the Invisible War of *cosmos diabolicus*.

I will take Casey's e-mail point by point and will add some commentary as we move through it.

Hunt, Casey. "The Dark Side." E-mail to Joe Griffin, 10 June 2005:

I went into the movie very curious as to how Lucas was going to show the transformation of Anakin to Darth:

- A. What could Darth Sidious (Palpatine) say to convince a noble Jedi with standards of righteousness to join forces with the Dark Side?
1. Anakin's sole purpose in life was to accomplish human good, i.e., stop people from dying and suffering so one person could put an end to violence and war.
 2. Darth Sidious, being aware of the strengths (not weaknesses) of Anakin's old sin nature, tempted him from that angle.



3. Anakin's objective was to promote himself rather than wait to be promoted by the Jedi Council. He was aware of his extraordinary talent and desired to be more powerful than all of the Jedi.
 4. The promise (by Palpatine) to assuage his fears and save his beloved wife from near certain death was one of the two tactics used to lure him onto the path of the dark side. (Paths of wickedness).
 5. Darth Sidious used Anakin's arrogance to lure him just like Lucifer lured Ishah to eat of the fruit. Anakin saw this as his opportunity to have full knowledge of both sides of the force and to increase his Jedi powers. Remember, he believed that the Jedi Council was hiding knowledge of the force from him. Ishah saw the same opportunity. She wanted to have full knowledge of both good and evil: to be like the Most High.
 6. Sidious also said something about obtaining a "conscience" of both the sides of the force.
 7. We all know the woman wasn't paying attention in the garden. The same is true for Anakin. We know by the end of the movie that he did not pay attention to Obi-Wan's teachings either.
 8. At the end of the movie when Obi-wan knew that Anakin knew that there was no way for him to obtain victory. But because of his lack of humility, Anakin did not apply what was taught and as a result, tried and failed to overtake his master. He could not execute the Jedi Way of Life because he wasn't paying attention in the classroom.
 9. Just as all are identified with Adam in his original sin, so also could one be identified with Anakin. We are all arrogant and in need of a savior.
 10. Unable to accomplish salvation on his own, Anakin turned toward more knowledge to gain everlasting life. If he had stayed true to the Jedi way, by the end of the movie he would have learned the way to eternal life.
- B. How would George Lucas show Anakin doing a complete 180 within the span of a couple of hours and make it be believable?

Most people would find it silly how easily Anakin converted. One minute he is turning in Darth Sidious over to the Jedi the next he is choking his wife? "Come on," they would say. I think the key is that he gave mental assent to demonism. Once either possessed or simply influenced by the Dark Side, it was easy and then believable to see how and why he did all that he did. I am so grateful that Lucas showed that on the screen by the change in his eye color.

1 Corinthians 7:1 - [NET Bible] Now with regard to the issues you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman [This statement is idiomatic for sexual relations outside of marriage]."

v. 2 - But because of immoralities [*πορνεία, porneia*: this refers in the plural to fornication, adultery, homosexuality, & licentious behaviors], let every man have sexual relations with his own wife and let every woman have sexual relations with her own husband.

v. 3 - A husband should give to his wife her sexual rights, and likewise a wife to her husband [marriage is designed by God to provide a legitimate expression of sexual passions].

1 Corinthians 7:4 - It is not the wife who has the rights to her own body, but the husband. In the same way, it is not the husband who has the rights to his own body, but the wife.



1 Corinthians 7:5 - Do not deprive each other [of sexual relations], except by agreement for a definite time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then resume your [sexual] relationship, so that Satan may not tempt you [into lascivious sins, i.e., πορνεία, *porneia*] because of your lack of self-control.

v. 6 - I say this as a concession, not as a command.