

The Attackers: Doctrine of Evil: Expressions of Evil; Divine Systems for Client Nation Prosperity: Government, Capitalism, & Church; Deviations Lead to Downtrends; Warnings against Human Good & Evil: 2 Cor 11:13–15; Rom 12:2a; 1 Tim 4:1; Col 2:8; Biblical Illustrations: Beware of Rhetorical Veils that Conceal while Advancing a Hidden Agenda: *Sulagogéo* in Col 2:8

12. Evil is a condition of the soul developed through volitional decisions which selects false ideas, concepts, and principles as guides for life.
13. Since evil is a policy in the plan of Lucifer, then in man it is a thought process based on that policy.
14. Since the plan of God is based on a policy of grace, then the expression of evil is characterized by its total denunciation of grace.
15. The actions of those who are motivated by evil thoughts express Lucifer's policy of evil.
16. Evil can be expressed in many ways: religion, humanism, altruism, socialism, communism, internationalism, ecumenicalism; social justice, and political justice; in short, any attempts to solve the problems of this world apart from the truths of the Word of God.
17. Truth always supports a policy of grace where God does all the work and man does nothing.
18. The avoidance of evil in a client nation demands that its society support these three principles:
 - (1) A divine system of establishment expressed by government.
 - (2) A divine system of economics expressed by capitalism.
 - (3) A divine system of worship expressed by the church.
19. PRINCIPLE: Whenever a client nation attempts to solve the problems of its society apart from these divine systems, that client nation has moved into evil.

20. Accompanying this collective evil is collective discipline that naturally follows in pre-decreed cycles of national discipline.
21. When deviations from divine systems of client nation function occur, that nation is guilty of being co-opted by Lucifer in his attempts to “be like the Most High.”
22. The several expressions of evil noted above are human-good concepts that have been transformed into evil by bogus attempts to solve human problems outside the divine plan of grace.
23. When viewed from human viewpoint and absent the light of Bible doctrine, Luciferian areas of human good become very subtle enticements into evil:

2 Corinthians 11:13 - Such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves as apostles of Christ.

v. 14 - No marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

v. 15 - Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to their works.

24. The way by which believers are caught up in these subtle enticements is by the use of false doctrines:

Romans 12:2a - Stop being conformed to the policy of this world but be transformed by the renovation of our mind.

1 Timothy 4:1 - The Holy Spirit clearly states that in the Church Age some will abandon the faith [Bible doctrine] and follow deceiving spirits [demon influence] and doctrines of demons [human good & evil].

Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. (NASB)

25. This verse warns astute believers to beware of the philosophical manifestations of human good and the subtle ways by which they are sold to the benighted by the Dark Side. Our current Zeitgeist recommends a closer investigation by exegesis.

II. Biblical Illustration:

1. Colossians 2:8 provides a warning to believers to be alert for those who would use duplicity and deceit to lead them astray; two words whose definitions contain pertinent warnings.
2. Duplicity is defined as “contradictory doubleness of thought, speech, or action; especially: the belying of one’s true intentions by deceptive words or action.”¹
3. Deceive is defined as: **(1)** to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid. **(2)** Implies imposing a false idea or belief that causes ignorance, bewilderment, or helplessness. Synonyms: Delude: implies deceiving so thoroughly as to obscure the truth. Beguile: stresses the use of charm and persuasion in deceiving.²
4. Into these definitions I have incorporated the following principle whose concept originated with Karl Marx. He proposed it as a system of manipulating a population; I have rewritten it into a definition of how propaganda works:

Beware of rhetorical veils that conceal while advancing a hidden agenda.

¹ Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v.: “duplicity.”

² Ibid., s.v.: “deceive.”

5. For example: Universal health care's rhetorical veil is to provide health insurance for the uninsured, a rationale based on human good that conceals while advancing the hidden agenda of government control over the lives of the entire population.
6. That's politics. This system is used in dating. Guys use pick-up lines to lure women to go out with them. The rhetorical veil is anything they think will work. The hidden agenda is not all that hidden.
7. In academia, rhetorical veils are drawn from a large inventory of Progressive doctrines whose hidden agenda is to consolidate all students into the groupthink³ of collectivism.
8. Colossians 2:8 warns believers about the duplicity and deceit used by those who traffic in rhetorical veils.

Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. (NASB)

1. The verse begins with the present active imperative of prohibition of the verb **βλέπω (blérō)**: "to see." When used in the imperative mood with the negative **μή (mē)** it means "be on guard lest."
2. This is a warning to be alert to some danger that may present itself in the future. It requires pre-preparation to identify this danger when it occurs, otherwise a believer may fall victim to it.
3. This pre-preparation is indicated by the progressive present tense which indicates action that goes on constantly: "Constantly be on guard lest."

³ "Groupthink: a pattern of thought characterized by self-deception, forced manufacture of consent, and conformity to group values and ethics" (ibid., s.v.: "groupthink").

4. The only way to constantly be on guard is to make yourself constantly available to the teaching of the Word of God.
5. The danger is from other people who have reason to coopt you into their way of thinking. Such a person is indicated by the indefinite pronoun **τις (tis)**: “anyone.”
6. It is followed by the future active imperative of the verb **εἰμί (eimi)**: “should,” and the present active participle of the verb **συλαγωγέω (sulagōgéō)**: translated, “to take captive.”
7. A synonym of *sulagōgéō* is the verb **συλάω (suláō)**: “to pillage, plunder, seize.”

In Homer it means to remove an enemy's weapons, despoil him of his weapons, snatch them away from him. Thence the common classical meaning, “remove, steal, pillage,” notably sacred treasures; hence “snatch away, carry off,” notably with violence. But the meaning “plunder, despoil,” well attested in the classical period, is confirmed in the Koine: “In time of war and in time of peace, they pillage (sulōsin), they despoil, enslave, ravage, sack, insult, mistreat, destroy, dishonor, assassinate.” In the papyri, the word means especially theft with breaking and entering and violence, or objects stolen.⁴

8. The highlighted words above indicate the things captured from the soul of an individual by means of propaganda and deceit.

⁴ Ceslas Spicq, “συλάω,” in *Theological Lexicon of the New Testament*, trans. and ed. James D. Ernest (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994), 3:312–13.