

Don't Be Confused, Part 1

Steve Berger April 23, 2017

Don't be confused

Question — Are you increasingly scratching your head in disbelief with the levels of confusion so many people seem to be living in? It's unreal! It's in the church!

- moral, sexual, biological, marital, spiritual, etc.
- “Has there ever been such a moment of cultural confusion?”¹ *Detroit News* 9/15/16
- **Isaiah 5:20-21**
Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!
- Hazen G. Werner, who served as a United Methodist bishop in Ohio, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, once said, “There is no more startling phenomenon in our day than the respectabilization of evil.”²
- **Jeremiah 6:15**
Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush.

Question — Are we so confused and calloused that nothing is evil, wicked, unholy, ungodly?

- **my sin is...** admitting it doesn't make me superior to anyone, **just less confused!**

Interesting — 1979 “Life of Brian” movie, Monty Python blasphemous spoof on life of Jesus, they mock everything, political correctness to gender identity, stuff they saw coming on the horizon... watch as they hammer out the tenets of their political resistance organization

WATCH SERMON ONLINE TO SEE VIDEO... 1979's comedic mockery has become 2017's confused reality!

Question — What does God's Word say about confusion? **Source, Result, Safeguard?**

Today — unpack those 3 things, casting an anchor, to keep us from drifting on the seas of calloused confusion or setting sail for moral relativism.

Sources and Results of Confusion — Rebellion against God

- as they enter the promise land — how to be blessed — how to be cursed
- **Deuteronomy 28:15,20**
But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come

¹ <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2016/09/15/cultural-confusion/90449904/>

² <https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/june-2012/confusing-evil-with-good/>

upon you and overtake you: The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do...

Very interesting — rebellion against the will of God is the **source of the curse of confusion** upon the people... **rebuke and destruction is the result!**

- **Deuteronomy 28:28**

The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart.

- rebellion also leads to madness, blindness and confusion of heart

**The more rebellious a person or nation becomes,
madness, blindness and confusion increases!**

Zechariah reiterates this warning 1000 years later to God's enemies...

- **Zechariah 12:4**

In that day, says the LORD, I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

Throughout history God has warned rebellious people about the curse of confusion, and the unwanted results of rebuke, madness and blindness... TURN!

Sources and Results of Confusion — Idolatry, creating and worshiping false gods

- **Isaiah 41:29**

Indeed they are all worthless; their works are nothing; their molded images are wind and confusion.

**Creating and worshiping idols is worthless nothingness—
that leads to confusion!**

- **Isaiah 45:16**

They shall be ashamed and also disgraced, all of them; they shall go in confusion together, who are makers of idols.

**Shame, disgrace and confusion
comes upon the creators and worshipers of idols!**

- **1 Corinthians 10:19-20 — very sobering**

What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

Listen* — there are demonic spirits behind the idols we create, worship and ascribe power to... **no wonder idolatry leads to confusion!*

- **idolized evolution — confused identity**, no longer image bearers of the Eternal, All-Knowing, Ever-Present, Holy, Loving God — now the byproduct of a primordial ooze that we slithered out of to master our own destiny — no wonder we're confused about who we are, and value life so little!

- **idolized sin** — **confused standard of morality**, I'm ok, you're ok; if it feels good, do it; turn on, tune in, drop out; do what's right in your own eyes, etc.
- **idolized self** — **confused about God's Lordship**, we're at the confused place where we wrongfully think *our* opinions, *our* journey, *our* feelings, *our* truth, and *our* reality supersedes God's Lordship and our accountability to Him.

America — *we've empowered our idols with our worship, and demons have brought confusion and every evil thing to us! There is biblical and cultural proof of this!*

Sources and Results of Confusion — Self-Devotion, self-seeking

- **James 3:14-16**

But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Self-devotion and self-seeking causes people to **boast and lie against the truth** — rather than just admit that they're rebelling against God and worshiping their own idols — they must boast and lie against God and His rightful authority over their lives.

**That so-called wisdom is earthly, sensual and demonic,
it's not of God!**

Where **self-devotion** and **self-seeking** exist, **confusion** and **every evil thing** will be there!

Bottom line — **self-devotion** leads to **idolatry** which leads to **rebellion** which leads to **confusion, rebuke, madness, blindness, shame, disgrace and every evil thing**.

How do we safeguard against confusion?

- unwavering devotion to God and His word
- passionate worship of God and His will
- joyful obedience to God and His ways

Discussion Questions

1. What "former" evils have become respectable?
2. Is there anything you can identify in your life that you "used to think was evil," but now it doesn't really bother you? (*i.e. progression of things you feel comfortable watching on TV*)
3. Is there anything that still "makes you blush"?
4. Are you willing to love people with the truth, even though they might call you a "hater"?
5. React to the statement, "you become like what you worship."
6. How are self-seeking and self-devotion the most insidious sins?

Before the Throne: Worship Night

Tuesday, May 2nd

6:30 pm

Sanctuary