

DEVICE 11: Satan distorts our thinking so that we make errors when we decide what is right and wrong.

Remedy 1 – Consider God’s perspective, whenever a person considers his or her judgments superior to God’s judgments, it is odious to God. God judges such a life to be wicked ⁽⁸⁾ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8–9** (ESV); ¹⁰ For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” **1 Corinthians 3:19–20** (ESV).

Remedy 2 – Receive the truth God gives you and let it dwell in your soul. God lets deluded souls continue in their error ⁽¹⁰⁾ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. **2 Thessalonians 2:10–12** (ESV).

Remedy 3 – Those who make moral errors suffer the consequences. Don’t forget this. ⁽¹¹⁾ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—¹³ each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. **1 Corinthians 3:11–15** (ESV).

Remedy 4 – Continuously examine your thoughts to see that you have followed false teachings that will destroy what Christ has begun in you ^[5] Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! **2 Corinthians 13:5** (ESV)]

Remedy 5 – Hold onto the truth about God and don’t let go. Human beings don’t hold onto the flesh when they are holding onto the arm of God ⁽⁵⁾ Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. **Jeremiah 17:5** (ESV), so hold onto the truth ⁽¹³⁾ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 1:13** (ESV); ⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. **Titus 1:9** (ESV)). Truth is more precious than gold or rubies (Prov 3:15). Truth is a God-given mirror allowing us to see the glory of divine wisdom. Let your soul grasp firmly onto the truth, like Ruth held onto her relationship to Naomi ⁽¹⁵⁾ And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. **Ruth 1:15–16** (ESV)).

Remedy 6 – Be humble. ^[3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **Philippians 2:3–4** (ESV); ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. **James 4:10** (ESV)]

Remedy 7 – Count the evils that moral errors have produced ⁽²⁸⁾ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. **Romans 1:28–32** (ESV); ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **Galatians 5:19–21** (ESV)).

Questions

1. Where do you think false ideas are spread most often? (TV, movies, gossip, sermons, schools, newspapers)
2. In Remedy 4, what kinds of errors do you think are most common?
3. How can we be sure we aren’t guilty of spreading errors and falsehoods? What should we do if we learn that we have said something that was in error?