

CHAPTER 2: SATAN'S DEVICES TO DRAW THE SOUL TO SIN

[12 devices and their remedies]

DEVICE 1: PRESENTING THE BAIT WHILE HIDING THE HOOK

The first device we will consider is that Satan uses to draw us into committing sin is “present the bait and hide the hook.” He presents us with a golden cup but hides the poison in it. He shows us sweetness and pleasure that will come to us if we sin. But he hides from us the wrath and misery that will also come to us. Satan used this device to tempt Adam and Eve, our first parents, (Gen 3:4-5). Notice that Satan says, “Your eyes will be opened and you shall be as gods.” This is how Satan presents the bait to us also. He shows pleasures that can be ours, but he hides the hook. He blinds us to the consequences. He doesn’t want us to see the shame, wrath, and loss that will soon come our way.

Remedy 1 – Keep yourself at the greatest possible distance from sin. Don’t toy with the bait Satan presents to you. (Romans 12:9)

Remedy 2 – Consistently remind yourself that sin’s pleasures are a bitter pleasure. The pleasure of sin will soon vanish. What will last is shame, sorrow, horror, and terror. (Job 20:12-14).

Remedy 3 – Never forget that the greatest and saddest losses come from sin. [Galatians 6:7-8]

Remedy 4 – Remember that sin has a deceitful and bewitching nature. Sin comes to us from the greatest deceiver of all. It is Satan’s child. It is the foundation of everything that is deceitful in this world. Its essential nature is deceitful. (Hebrews 3:13) Sin kisses the human soul, deceiving it so badly that it calls evil good, and good evil.

Questions

1. *Why mention this as the first device that Satan uses?*
2. *If you face a temptation like this, what could you say to yourself that might “keep you awake” to the reality of the sin you are about to commit?*

⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:4–5 (ESV)

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Romans 12:9 (ESV)

¹² “Though evil is sweet in his mouth, though he hides it under his tongue, ¹³ though he is loath to let it go and holds it in his mouth, ¹⁴ yet his food is turned in his stomach; it is the venom of cobras within him. Job 20:12–14 (ESV)

⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Galatians 6:7–8 (ESV)

¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13 (ESV)