

## Knockoff Christianity!

### I. Slide#1 Intro:

- A. Slide#2 *Same Same but Different* tee-shirt (explain phrase in Cambodia - it's similar but not exact)
1. Knock-off (nkôf,-f) n. Informal. An unauthorized copy or imitation, as of designer clothing.
  2. Here Paul uncovers Knockoff Christianity. How to see it. How to repel it.
- B. Slide#3 Title: *Knockoff Christianity*
- C. Outline: Not all Jealousy is Evil; Not all Ministries are Ministries; Not all Apostles are Apostles; Not all Angels are Angels; Not all Ministers are Ministers; Not all Fools are Fools.

### II. Slide#4 NOT ALL JEALOUSY IS "EVIL" (1,2)

- A. Here we have some "holy irony". Paul has to pull out his wallet again & show his credentials.
1. Since your new teachers love to boast, then I also will use their method.
- B. Slide#5 The Jealousy of God!
1. Jealousy of man is usually selfish & self-centered. Jealousy of God is others focused.
  2. On one hand, there is nothing more ugly & devilish than jealousy.
    - a) Cain jealous of Able, slays him; the children of Israel, jealous of Joseph, sells him; Saul's jealousy of David, results in trying to murder him.
  3. On the other hand, there is a jealousy that is considered godly!
    - a) *I the Lord am a jealous God.* Matter of fact when this was said is when God was laying down the bedrock of human relationships...just after mentioning the 1st 2, of the 10 commandments. Ex.20:3,4,5a
    - b) Jehovah basically says, "I refuse to consider the possibility of a rival, I must be **Master**, I must be **Supreme**. I must be the **Lord**, total Lord of all, or I will not be Lord at all. I am not going to compete with another for *a place* in your affection, I am not going to attempt to bargain that you should decide upon a syndicate or by the resolution of a committee that you should follow Me. I will be your **Sovereign**, I will be your **Master**, your **God**, or I shall be nothing." [Alan Redpath, Blessings out of Buffetings, 2nd Cor., pg.184]
  4. It is different though, when we talk about the belief of other *non-Christian religions*, that their gods are *jealous*.
    - a) They mean he must be appeased by sacrifice. But this is not our God. Oh, wait, yes it is... except the fact that He doesn't expect "us" to appease Him.
      - (1) He knows we can't. So He took care of His own appeas-all!
- C. Slide#6 He is Jealous for you! *Proof?* I take you to the cross at Calvary...

1. **Instead of** destroying the race that deserted & rebelled against Him, **He has** allowed that very race to rebel against Him **in order that** through that very act He might win back their love. That is the Jealousy of God!<sup>1</sup>
  - a) God allowed them to murder Him on the cross of Calvary **that** He might win back their hearts! - *Glorious, life-giving jealousy!*
2. **Slide#7** [How He loves, John Mark McMillan] *And He is jealous from me, loves like a hurricane, I am a tree Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy.*
3. Thus, **Paul** says in vs.2...This flame that burns in my heart for you, & eats up my life, possessing my personality & gripping my soul, is something that has got hold of me until nothing else matters. *Redpath*
  - a) One of the duties of the *friend of the bridegroom* was to guarantee the chastity of the bride
    - (1) **In the OT** – Israel was the “wife” of Jehovah, **already married at Sinai.**
    - (2) **In the NT** – The church is the betrothed “bride” of Christ, **we are not wed yet.**
      - (a) **These false teachers came into the Corinth church fully knowing their fiancé was Christ, & yet trying to court & date them. Ultimately to seduce them from an exclusive devotion to Christ.**
    - (3) **Spiritual leaders must protect the church from false teachers.**

### III. **Slide#8 NOT ALL MINISTRIES ARE “MINISTRIES” (3,4)**

- A. False religion has been around as long as there has been true religion.
- B. **Slide#9a Cults** usually lure people in by a **treble hook of 3 methods**:
  1. **Deprogramming** – “All of your past was wrong”.
    - a) “What your parents, teachers, or church said, it is all **wrong!**”
  2. **Slide#9b Programming** – The human **will** doesn’t function apart from the **mind**, so they seek to altar your **mind** so they can control your **will**.
    - a) Habitual patterns of **behavior & response** will be broken **& a new program** put in its place
  3. **Slide#9c Reprogramming** – Intensive teaching or indoctrination.
    - a) A whole new structure is raised.
- C. **Slide#10a** Here are 6 things to evaluate whether a ministry is **truly a ministry!**
  1. **Authoritarianism** – They lack a servants heart & lack grace.
  2. **Slide#10b Exclusiveness** – There is suspicion & paranoia. Theirs is the only way.
  3. **Slide#10c Greed** – There is a manipulation to get money.
  4. **Slide#10d Sensuality** – There is moral impurity & sexual looseness.
  5. **Slide#10e Unaccountability** - There is much secrecy & irresponsibility.

<sup>1</sup> Alan Redpath, Blessings out of Buffetings, 2nd Cor., pg.185

6. **Slide#10 of Rationalization** - There is defensiveness when they are confronted. Also, they twist the scriptures to fit their lifestyle or their opinions.

D. **Slide#11 (4) Another Jesus; A Different Spirit; A Different Gospel.**

E. He lists here *how* to contrast the **Authentic** from the **Artificial!**

F. Note the difference between **another & different.**

1. **Another** here means “*another of a similar kind.*” (show pens)

a) A false teacher will talk about Jesus, he may sound biblical, but he’s fooling you.

(1) (i.e.) The Mormons & J.W.’s talk about our same Jesus, **yet** the way they understand Him is “**another Jesus**” **then** the biblical Jesus!

2. **Different** means “*another of an opposite kind.*”

a) All other religions have a different spirit.

3. **A different Gospel?** (2-fold check list)

a) **Does their gospel** proclaim the deity of Jesus Christ as the eternal 2nd member of the Trinity? - **Does their gospel** offer Salvation as a **free gift** of God, purchased at the cross by Christ & available w/o works, based on His death & bodily Resurrection?

b) Satan is too smart to **ignore** this gospel...he simply **perverts** it, whatever way he can!

#### IV. **Slide#12 NOT ALL APOSTLES ARE “APOSTLES” (5-13)**

A. Note: **Most eminent apostles** (5) & later he calls them **false apostles** (13).

B. **Slide#13a They are Charismatic!** (5,6)

C. Don’t be taken in by looks or charisma.

1. These guys **looked** better than Paul; **preached** better than Paul; had more impressive **credentials** than Paul.

D. (6) **Paul was untrained in speech, ...yet trained in knowledge!**

1. Paul was not a **trained** speaker...**but the fact remains**...**he knew** what he was talking about, **and** they **didn’t!**

a) There is a famous story which tells how a company of people were dining together. *After dinner it was agreed that each should recite something.* A well-known actor arose & w/all the resources of elocution & dramatic art, he declaimed the 23rd Psalm & sat down to tremendous **applause**. **A quiet man followed him.** He too began to recite the 23rd Psalm & at 1st there was a chuckle. **But** before he had ended there was a **stillness** that was more eloquent than any applause. When he had spoken the last words there was a silence, & then the actor leant across & said, “Sir, I know **the Psalm**, but you know **the Shepherd.**”

E. Don’t judge pastors & church leaders by appearances, **but by faithful service over time!**

F. **Slide#13b They are Greedy!** (7-12)

G. (7) Tongue in cheek...**Did I sin in not charging you for the gospel?**

1. **Paul was a leather-worker**(for tents) [Acts 18:3] – The work was difficult, demanding, & had low status in class-conscience Corinth.
2. **Free of charge** - They were saying basically, “*ha, you get what you pay for!*”!
  - a) 1 Pet.5:2 **Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;**

H. (12) Paul is going to **continue** to point out these **wolves in sheep’s clothing** to them.

I. **Slide#13c They are Imitators!** (13)

J. **As Satan loves to work by deceit & craftiness** (vs.3) so these are called **Deceitful workers** (the basic meaning for the word is **bait for fish**). They’re *cunning, contriving, scheming, catching*.

K. **How to share with cult members?**

1. Stay on the **offensive** (not be offensive).
2. **Know** your bible.
3. Stick to the **important issues** of Jesus & Salvation.
4. **Pray** that their hearts will be softened, their spiritual blindfold would be removed, & that they will respond to the good news.

V. **Slide#14 NOT ALL ANGELS ARE “ANGELS” (14)**

A. (vs.14) He remarks that **Satan himself** is behind all of this.

B. **Slide#15a Satan loves to work by “imitation”.**

1. **Remember the parable of the Tares/wheat?** Mt.13:24,25; 30; 38,39 **The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came & sowed tares among the wheat and went his way...Let both grow together until the harvest,...The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age.**
2. Satan comes as **the serpent** who **deceives**; **the lion** who **devours**; & **the angel of light** who **dupes!**

C. **Slide#15a Satan came to Eve pretending to want to help her.** (*Don’t you want to know what God knows...both good & evil?*)

1. **What if Satan was honest** about what he was about to do? - Ok, here’s the plan, I trick you into eating this, you share it w/your husband, thus bringing death into the world. **But that’s not all!** If you act today, I’ll throw in all your kids, & your kids-kids, will be automatically born with original sin & be damned to hell unless they repent!... **How about it?**

## VI. Slide#16 **NOT ALL MINISTERS ARE “MINISTERS” (15)**

- A. **Satan turned himself into a preacher** when he was in the wilderness when he took a text from Ps.91 & dared use it against the Son of God **If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.** For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'
- B. Many on Halloween don a mask pretending to be someone they are not.
  1. Here in Corinth some were masquerading as **apostles** of Christ.

## VII. Slide#17 **NOT ALL FOOLS ARE “FOOLS” (16-21)**

- A. He picks back up the **folly/fool** discussion from vs.1.
- B. **Focus on vs.20** to identify **5 things** they do (**read**).
- C. **All cults work on Law & not on Grace.** (i.e. **bondage**)
  1. It could be circumcision as it was here, **or** a 1000 other petty rules & regulations, **so** as to make you abandon your glorious liberties & submit to a yoke of bondage again
  2. **It is not the devils aim to destroy** humanity...simply to get man to **yield to him!**
- D. **Slide#18 Many factors are IN the Devils favor!**
  1. He is invisible (so many don't think he exists!)
  2. He is subtle (clever to never show himself for who he really is).
  3. We have a fallen nature (it is more natural to sin than not sin).
  4. We have the lust of our eyes, the lust of our flesh, & the pride of life!
  5. We are prone to wander.
  6. We live in a world system that promotes “self”.
  7. Satan has many working for him (1/3 of the angels of heaven followed him).
  8. He has many humans doing his bidding (i.e. Cult leaders, false religious leader).
  9. His clan is united! (You never hear of any **civil war in hell**. They are all united in one full-scale attack upon Gods children!)
- E. **Slide#19a There are also some factors NOT IN his favor though:**
  1. **In Gen.3:15 His defeat was predicted.** The seed of the woman would bruise the **head of the serpent.**
  2. **Slide#19b At the cross his judgment was decreed.** Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
  3. **Slide#19c The ultimate doom of the devil is certain.** Rev.20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

4. Slide#19d We have victory over him today! 1Jn.4:4 He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

F. Slide#20blank **Questions:**

1. Can you separate **doctrinal wheat** from **chaff**?
2. Can you spot a **wolf** in **clerical clothing**?
3. Can you pick out the **Real Jesus**?
4. Can you discern a **different spirit**?
5. Can you detect a **contaminated gospel**?

- G. **Prayer:** Forgive us for *Knockoff Christianity*. Forgive us for when our Christianity smacks of “An unauthorized copy or imitation”. Help us to be *genuine, real, authentic, bona fide, undisputedly* **Christian!**