

# September 2004: The Age of Seduction

by Aaron Greenway

There is a book that I recently read by Beth Moore entitled “Why Godly People Do Ungodly Things”. In that book, she talks about men and women of God being seduced in one form or another by demonic forces that are taking aim at their “pure love for Christ”. This is being done in several ways, by the deception of cults, of money, and of sex. It refers to these men and women, who once loved God, are now under assault spiritually.

There are many examples of this. One blantant one is the fact that what shocked us twenty years ago no longer phases us. This is why people like Britney Spears can continue to push the envelope and people are only offended for a short period of time. Then comes Christina Aguilera on the cover of her new album. And then others do the same things. Pretty soon, the same people who were offended in the beginning become immuned to the images they once opposed. This is what we call desensitizing the public. To be more basic, this is what sin is all about.

Some more examples: Just recently, a friend of mine wrote expressing her anguish over the divorce of her parents, a picture-perfect family of a father who raised his children in the fear of the Lord. But somewhere along the road he allowed his heart to be stolen away. He has left his wife. And his children, although grown, are torn apart inside. This is just another example of the deception of sin and how it works its way into someone’s soul almost without that person realizing it. Another problem is pornography. We men are particularly vulnerable to this and to

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other types of sexual sin. First, it is Victoria's Secret. No big deal, right? It is just an advertisement! Gotcha! In Peru, I have female friends who are battling over the issue of whether or not to wear a veil in the church. The problem came in when one of them said to another friend of mine, "Putting on a veil is how we are accepted into God's presence." Do you see how what seems to be so innocent really isn't? The last time I checked, the veil is what kept us out of God's presence. That same veil was torn in half when Christ died. Be careful about taking Scriptural truths and working them against vital, doctrinal arteries that can cause internal bleeding in the Body of Christ.

The problem seems to be that the seduction happens gradually. It is never so blatant. The Enemy is a salesman. His idea is to get you to buy the bargain so he can rope you into something that is much more costly. Something as simple as a billboard can cause someone to fall. And usually, it is not the billboard itself that causes someone to fall. But it opens the door to something bigger. And it never stops. Sin keeps going. It is never satisfied. It keeps going on and on. Contrary to the Word of God that says that the Living Water will quench our spiritual thirst, sin keeps on a soda diet, sugar high that demands more and more. And we are never satisfied. Men, whose faces we see on T.V. today, who are now being indicted over the corporate scandals of Enron, are the faces of men who at one point in the past were probably innocent in their pursuit of what they thought to be as supporting their families. Somewhere, the love of money got them.

Don't think for one moment that you cannot fall into it. Do not believe the lie that you are too holy or too righteous to fall into sin. And be careful about point a finger at those who have. Only Jesus Christ was able to overcome the wiles of the devil, and He is passing on the secrets of a successful Christian life to us (I Peter 5:8). In this whole process of discovering my own weaknesses, I have learned more about myself. I have learned what to allow into my life, and what not to allow. And I am still learning. But more importantly, I have learned that my relationship with God is paramount. If my not falling into sin depends on whether my brother in Christ finds out or not, I will take my chances, even though accountability is important. But if it depends on how God reacts and that communion that I have with Him, then that is another

story. My relationship with God has to be so precious to me that I would not do anything to jeopardize that relationship. Carlos, a friend of mine, once told me that what keeps him out of trouble is the fear of God. That is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10), is it not?

The second thing to remember is that we are in a spiritual war. The tactics of the Enemy is like that of the terrorists. They play dirty. Therefore, we have to hide ourselves in Christ, die to ourselves, and then also learn the power of prayer. Prayer is what is going to keep our families safe. Prayer is what is going to keep our churches from splitting. Prayer is what is going to keep our spouses from wandering. The stakes are high. The temptations are huge. And those of us who are raising children, we cannot afford to live double lives. A close friend of mine told me recently, "I hear this constant theme in the Body of Christ today." I asked him, "What is that?" "I hear that God is calling His people back to Himself, back to a pure love for Him and for His kingdom, free from the seduction of the Enemy." He then added, "And this may not just be a call, but literally the 'the last stand'." My friend wanted to say that this could be the Holy Spirit's last move before Christ appears.

Time is short, my friends. If we are being dragged away by the deceitfulness of sin, it is time to grab ahold of Christ's coattail and hold on for dear life. It is time take authority over the tactics of the Enemy. It is time to hold fast to our sincere love for Christ. It is time to cover our families, our friends, our very lives with the blood of Christ. Because without that, we are fair game in the Enemy's plan to subvert and pervert the will of God in our lives. Let us cry out to Him! He will not turn His back to the one calling for Him! Let us do it before it is too late!