

## Tactics of the Enemy – Building on a Foundation of Truth Feb 12, 2023

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Hi to those online!

**Church-Wide Prayer Requests! Life on Mission: Tupendane Africana – shipping container arrived! But the Uganda Revenue Agency has possession of it.**

1. The URA will be completed their tasks soon – to release the container – arrives safely at the farm
2. After it is released – what our role will be in unloading
3. The school and farm – harvest is coming so a bountiful harvest
4. Planting for the next season.

**RECAP:** Deceived, who me?

**A. Five main categories he tries to deceive us: Identity – Belonging – Purpose – Origin – God**

**B. Learning to discern good from evil – truth over lies**

1. KNOW the Truth: Learn about God AND learn to know God
2. OBEY the truth: Submit to Jesus as only Savior AND functional Lord.
3. LIVE by the Spirit: Pray to God AND hear from God

Learning to distinguish good from evil... truth over lies... has never been more relevant for us than right now.

Our culture began with saying, “live your truth” or, “what is true for you is true for you, what is true for me is true for me.”

- Which is a dangerous lie! And doesn't work! BUT... remember... we have been saying, ideas, thoughts, are like seeds... seeds that you plant take root and grow... so what is the fruit of our rejection of absolute truth?

We are now past “live your own truth”. We are now, “You must believe and support what we believe or you could be canceled.” **This is the new definition of tolerance. Believe and support what we believe.**

**For example:** counterfeit money... the best way to spot counterfeit money? Is to study the real thing! The feel, smell, how it looks.. not sure about taste? LOL but you study the real thing and get so closely acquainted with it... that when someone shows you a counterfeit? Even a good one? You can spot it.

- The best counterfeits are the ones that are the closest to the real thing! Just like lies!

**A. Know the Truth: Learn about God and learn to know God**

**Common Lies about God & how we relate to him:**

1. The God of the OT is different than the God of the NT

2. God does not exist. It's a lie!
3. And if he is real? He isn't good.
4. If God exists he must not be all powerful – or he's evil if he is!
5. All paths lead to heaven!
6. Whatever is true for you is true for you – do what makes you happy!
7. Identity - You decide who you are! Trust your heart! Trust your feelings!
8. People are inherently good!

That is just a spattering of the lies that we encounter... there are many more! But even one of these lies, believed in the heart, will change how you view God, yourself, and humanity.

When we don't have a foundation of TRUTH regarding who God is, how we relate to him, who we are, how we got here, where we belong and why we are here... we are ripe for deception.

**How do we do this? SMORP** – Scripture, Message, Obedience, Repentance, Prayer – a wonderful tool for teaching you to Abide in Christ!

**Questions to ask in Message portion:** what am I learning about God? What am I learning about myself? What am I learning about people?

## **B. Creation - In the beginning... God**

**The Kalam – the cosmological argument for the existence of God states:**

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause
2. The universe began to exist
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause

When the universe began... time and space began... whatever created time and space, has to exist OUTSIDE time and space... meaning they are GREATER than time and space. MEANING. The cause must be eternal – outside limits of time AND immaterial – not limited by a material nature, which would limit God to one place at one time.

**Genesis 1:1-25** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (then we get a beautiful description of what He created that follows)

**Romans 1:19-20** creation testifies of Gods existence! **Colossians 1:16-17** Jesus created all things and holds them all together!

**Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

### **Foundational Truths:**

1. **God is Sovereign** – all powerful, exists outside space. He is not material and has no material limitations as we do.
2. **God is Eternal** – he is not limited by time. He can be in all and through all.
  - a. **Ephesians 4:6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
3. **God is Creator** – IF he created us, me, then we exist for HIS PURPOSES AND NOT OUR OWN.

**Why does this matter?**

**Implications of Truth:** IF all of these things are true. THEN... he defines who we are, where we belong, what our purpose is. NOT US. It also means... He defines himself! We don't get to make God in our image, or, charge him with wrongdoing based on our limited understanding!

**Genesis 1:26-31** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."... And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

#### **Foundational Truths:**

4. **I am created in the image of God. I am not just an animal. Imago Dei** –we were created in the image of God. This means, we are NOT just animals. The world will try and make you believe we evolved from animals and still remain animals.
5. **I am valuable to God** – he made me in his image and made only one of me.
6. **I am created to work** – I have purpose. To steward God's creation.
7. **I am created male or female** – God made me male, or female, and both reflect who he is.

#### **Our kids need TRUTH & LOVE – not to be told to follow their feelings.**

8. My existence & purpose are determined by God – I look to him for my identity
9. **All human beings have intrinsic value as Imago Dei** – they bear the image of God! Even if distorted!
  - a. This means ALL human beings deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Regardless of beliefs, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, sexuality, personality, etc. ALL deserve dignity and respect. And we are clearly commanded to LOVE all people.
  - b. Abortion, suicide, murder, MAiD, racism, mistreatment of people for any reason.
  - c. We don't define a person's worth. God does.
  - d. Think about what this truth says to racism? You think God is ok with racism? NO! God hates racism. He created ALL people in his image. And ALL people have value beyond any other created beings or things. GOD DETERMINES VALUE AND HE SETS IT MUCH HIGHER THAN PEOPLE DO.

#### **10. God's creation was created GOOD**

**Genesis 2:2-3** And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

**Genesis 2:15-18, 24-25** The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a

helper fit for him.”... Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**CHOICE:** God wanted people to love him of their own CHOICE. To have the CHOICE TO LOVE, they had to have a CHOICE to REJECT HIM.

**Foundational Truths:**

11. God gave people the ability to choose him, or reject him
12. God loves people, and cares about the details of their lives (e.g. loneliness)
13. God wants people to love him of their own free will
14. God cares about our relationships
15. I am created to be in relationship with God
16. I am created to be in relationship with other people
17. I am created to work, yes, AND to rest and enjoy creation
18. I was given the dignity and respect to choose to love God or reject him
19. God created marriage to be a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman. God made marriage. God defines marriage, not us
20. God created sex as a good gift to be experienced in marriage only

**C. The Fall – the entrance of sin & evil into creation**

**Genesis 3:1-13** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

- **The LIE: did God really say?** This is the same approach the devil uses with ALL the truths we’ve been covering today! ALL OF THEM.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” **Gen 3:16-24** – describes the curse that was brought upon the earth because of sin... Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”

**Foundational Truths:**

21. **Adam & Eve rejected God – Creation was corrupted as a result of sin**
22. **I was not created to know everything. God sets parameters for my wellbeing**
23. **God was merciful to not allow us to live forever in our corrupted flesh**

**D. Redemption: God had a plan from the start to deal with sin and restore us to Himself!**

**Genesis 3:14-15** The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

- The plan for SALVATION! Gen 3:15! God already planned for another ADAM – JESUS who would come and MAKE A WAY for us to be restored!

**Ephesians 1:3-10** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

**Foundational Truth:**

24. God was not surprised by our sin. From the beginning he had made a way for us to be saved from our sin – if we chose to receive it!

**Worship & Pray! TOGETHER WE RUN**

**MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!**

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**SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023**

**Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship**

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers