

# Discerning Truth from Error

*John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"*

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith at CBC Sunday, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Communion (Fellowship) with God (or anyone else) requires clear communication!**

Satan (The thief of Jn 10:10) seeks Confuse/Contaminate our communication/communion with God. Some still doubted this truth (Jn 10) and were deceived by, *and actually following*, this “thief”. (26,27)

Have you ever been deceived or misunderstood? Have your words, actions or intentions ever been misjudged, misrepresented, or misinterpreted, in such a way as to misrepresent you?

**Do you think God ever feels that way?**

**One of the greatest needs of the human heart is to need to be “understood”!**

**Where do you think this need comes from?** There have never been more ways to share information and so little “Communication”! Whether we use text, snap chat, twitter, tweet, email, voice mail, snail mail, phone calls, etc, the goal is to share enough information so that we can be understood!

God *“in sundry times and divers manners”* (Heb. 1:3) speaks to us, seeking to be “understood.”

**Since we’re “Laborers together with God” (1 Cor. 3:9)**

- God has the responsibility to communicate what He expects from us.
- We have the responsibility to Recognize and Respond to Him.

**It’s in these 2 areas that Satan works hardest to confuse/distract us  
By manipulating and/or distorting the truth.**

**1. Satan is “*a liar and the father of it.*” (Jn 8:44)**

**A. He’s a master of manipulation & misinformation.** Gen. 3:1 *“The serpent was more subtil (Arum: cunning, crafty, prudent) than any... And he said to the woman Yea, Hath God said...?”*

**2. Since Satan is subtle, he knows lies must be disguised to be believed.**

Oxford Dictionary defines Disinformation as: *“false information which is intended to mislead, especially propaganda issued by a government organization to a rival power or the media.”*

**A. How do you “disguise” lies?**

**1) Mingle them (dress them up) with some truth!** 2 Cor 11:14,15 *“Satan is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...”*

**B. This means we learn to Discern.** 1 Jn 4:1,4-6 *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try (Dokimazo: Prove 10x; try 4x; discern 2x) the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world...”*

*4 “Ye are of God... and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world... 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” (plan’e: to deceive, delude, drift {James 1:16})*

**Recognizing Mis-(Dis) Information.**

<https://groundviews.org/2018/05/12/infographic-10-types-of-mis-and-disinformation/>

**1) False Connection:** Headlines, pictures, captions don’t support the actual content. (Acts 21:28-29)  
Remember the “Kids in Cages” charges against President Trump?

Pictures used were often from the Obama administration.

**2) False Content** When genuine content (Truth) is shared with “False contextual information” (Lies)  
Taking statements out of context and turning them into talking points. (See Mt. 26:59-61; John 2:21)

- 3) **Manipulated Content.** When genuine imagery is used to manipulate or deceive.  
Viral pictures blaming President Trump's border control policies.
- 4) **Satire or Parody.** "Fooling" in fun. Late night comedy selectively mocking Presidents and policies.
- 5) **Misleading Content.** Twisting information to frame an issue or individual in a certain light.  
Covid Statistics (Multiple tests skewed results) Covid "deaths".
- 6) **Imposter Content.** When the author of the content portends to be someone else or impartial!  
Who funds the "fact checkers?" Who "fact Checks" them? *Dr. Fauci as the National Covid spokesman when his organization (NHI) funded the research (\$600,000) at the Wuhan lab!?!?*
- 7) **Fabricated Content.** Completely false and designed to deceive.  
**"If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed."** Adolf Hitler  
"Russian Collusion" was the national narrative for 4 years without any solid evidence.
- 8) **Propaganda.** Content is used to create or manage values, values, knowledge.  
*"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.  
The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."* Joseph Goebbels (Hitler's minister of propaganda)  
Jan 6 Trump supporters were "Armed insurgents": BLM and Antifa rioters were "peaceful protesters"
- 9) **Sponsored Content.** Advertising or PR. Disguised as editorial Content.  
"The WHO Director-General (DG) has been an outspoken advocate for the Chinese government's COVID-19 response.... Tedros commended China ...and praised the country's top leadership for its "openness to sharing information" While they arrested citizens for speaking out against them.
- 10) **Error:** When Established news organizations make mistakes.  
Remember media coverage of Covington Catholic Students in MAGA hats?

## Conclusion:

**Disinformation leads us to distrust, and therefore, reject truth. John 8:44-45**

*"Ye are of your father the devil... he is a liar, and the father of it.*

*And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not."*

Since Satan as "The god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:16-18) has contaminated our society with deception. (1 Jn 5:19 *"the whole world lieth in wickedness"* **Ponēros**: evil, diseased, hurtful

**Since our world is so diseased with deceit; What can we "Know" for sure?**

**1 Jn 5:19** *"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

*20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true"*

## Application:

**1 Jn 5:4** *"whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:*

**Have you been born again?**

*and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."* (pistis: conviction, confidence)

**Where will you place your faith (confidence)? Jn 10:10**

*"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:*

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."*

Vs 27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"*