**Know thyself Pt 2: Our Propensity for Perversion.**

**Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday Oct. 15th**

**2 Cor 2:11 “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”**

**“If you know the enemy and know yourself, *you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.***

**If you know yourself but not the enemy, *for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat.***

**If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, *You’ll succumb in every battle.”***

**Sun-Tzu “The Art of War” 5th century BC**Knowing yourself, your adversaries and your allies are critical, not only to a military campaign,

but to a peaceful, purposeful and productive life. If you confuse an adversary with an ally,

You’re vulnerable to sabotage and betrayal! Remember Benedict Arnold?

It’s dangerous to confuse ally and adversary! Ex 34:12 **“Take heed to thyself,**

**lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare**

**(môqēsh: hook/trap) in the midst of thee:“ (Dt. 4:9; 12:13,19,30)**

**Reflection:** **2 weeks ago we focused on how we can know and trust our chief ally because He’s:**

**Pure, Perceptive, Preserving, Powerful, and Personal. (Ex. 3-19)**

It’s critical to recognize, however, that God is not just our “ally” (co-pilot),

but is actually our “Commander in chief”. Josh 4:13,14 **“the Captain of the host of the LORD”**

**Last week we focused on the importance of knowing ourselves.** Unlike God’s, our perception is limited by our temporary perspective and understanding. 1 Cor. 13:12 **“now we see through a glass darkly”**

**(ai’nigma: obscured, enigma)** (2 Cor 4:4) **This lack of accurate perception causes us:**

**To question “orders”. *(Commands)* and To complain about “ordeals”. *(Crisis)***

**Direction: Another aspect of our fallen human nature that 1 Cor 10 reveals is our propensity for perversion. 1 Cor 10:5-7 “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. (Perverted Physical practices) Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; As it is written ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’” (Perverted Spiritual practices)**

**1. The Definitions of Perversion.**

**A. English Definitions:**

**1) Perverted (adjective): Corrupt! 1 Jn 5:19 “The whole world lieth in wickedness”**

**2) Perversion (as a noun) a) a perverted (twisted) form: an aberrant sexual practice or interest.**

**b) The act of perverting or the condition of being perverted (corrupted!)**

**3) To Pervert: A transitive verb meaning:**

**a) to cause to turn aside or away from what is good, true or morally right: CORRUPT or to**

**cause to turn aside or away from what’s generally done or accepted : MISDIRECT**

**b) to divert to a wrong end or purpose: MISUSE to twist the meaning or sense of:**

**MISINTERPRET (2 Pt 3:5)**

**2. The Dimensions of Perversion.**

**A. Distortion Pr 10:8-9 “he that perverteth his ways shall be known.” ʿāqash (v): to knot, twist, distort**

**1) At this stage we begin to distort (redefine) right and wrong. (See Gen. 3:5)**

**B. Subversion Pr 19:1-3 “The foolishness of man perverteth his way…” Sālap: to subvert, pervert, overthrow**

**1) Now we begin to subtly work to overthrow God’s Standards.**

**C. Deception Jer 3:20-21 “for they have perverted their way…” ʿāwâ: to make crooked, twisted. “Iniquity” 4x**

**1) At this point our self /satanic deception *(twisted beliefs, spawned by twisted spirits)* begins to**

**affect our “ways.” (derek: manner of life, behavior) See Isaiah 53:6**

**D. Rebellion Jer 23:36 “ye have perverted the words of the living God” Hāpak’: overturn, change.**

**1) Rebelling against God’s standards and replacing them with our own. (Gen. 3:1; Jdg 17:6; 21:25)**

**3. The Progression *(Digression)* of Perversion.**

**As Israel moved further from God, their perversions took on new forms and intensities.**

**A. Distortion. Pr 10:8-9 ʿāqash: to twist/distort This comes from Satan (Jn 8:44) through:**

**1) Others: 2Tim 3:13 “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”**

**2) Our own selfish mind/flesh. Titus 3:3 “we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived,…”**

**B. Subversion: Pr 19:1-3 Sālap’: subvert (undermine)**

**1) Our own deceptions begins to affect / undermine our (and others’) faith. 2 Tim 2:17-18**

**“their word will eat as doth a canker: (gangraina)…and overthrow (anatrepō: subvert) the faith of some.”**

**C. Deception: Jer. 3:21,23 “perverted their way” ʿāwâ: to make crooked, twisted. “Iniquity” 4x**

**1) Once the foundation of truth has been undermined; it’s replaced by falsehood and lies. (Col. 2:8)**

**2) At this point we become spiritual “adulterers”. (Compare Jer. 3:20 with James 4:4-8)**

**This eventually and inevitably leads to:**

**D. Rebellion Jer 23:36 “ye have perverted the words of the living God” (Hāpak’: overturn, change.)**

**1) We change God’s Standard of right and wrong! Is 5:20-21 (See Romans 1:22)**

**2) Rebellion puts us in partnership with Satan. This is what Paul warned about in 1 Cor. 10:20-22**

**“I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.“ (Koinonia: fellowship, communion, partnership!)**

**3) Rebellion gives Satan overt access/influence. 1Sam. 15:21 “Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And**

**stubbornness is iniquity and idolatry. Because you’ve rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected thee…”**

**Conclusion:**

**The Corinthian Christians must have wondered what ancient Israel’s sins have to do with them?**

**They were guilty of the same sins Israel committed: Immorality (1 Cor. 5,6); Idolatry (1 Cor 8; 10);**

**And Ingratitude/murmuring (2 Cor 12:20,21) “…there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: … I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and haven’t repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.”**

**Application**

**This digression of perversion is clearly happening to our country and world. (1 Jn 5:19)**

**Is it possible that we’ve been caught up in it?**

1. **Do we have a distorted view of Right & Wrong?**
2. **Has our culture in any way subverted (undermined) our faith and values? (2 Cor 4:4)**
3. **Have we been deceived by the world’s values resulting in our spiritual infidelity. (James 4)**
4. **Are we in rebellion (in any area) to God’s word and ways? (1 Sam. 15:21; Phil. 3:18,19)**

**Jer 3:20 “as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me…”**

**Our fallen human nature is prone to deceitful infidelity and perversion.**

**21 “ …for they have perverted (ʿāwâ: twisted) their way” Have our ways drifted from God’s ways?**

**“and they have forgotten (shākaḥ’: oblivious of) their God.” Have we been oblivious of our God?**

**While our nature is prone to perversion, God’s nature is Powerfully Redemptive.**

**His Redemption is triggered by our repentance.**

**22 “Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.” (Remember Marah? {Ex 15:26})**

**Are you willing to return To Him?**

**22b “Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.” Is He your Lord and God?**