

# Pictures of the People of God

## Seeing ourselves through God's Eyes.

### Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>

Satan as “*the god of this world*” (2 Cor 4:4) rules through “*the power of darkness*” Col. 1:13  
He uses the darkness of deception and the distractions of the world to “*blind our minds*” to keep us from recognizing and responding to God's Light/Truth. (2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Jn 2:15,16; 5:19)

1 Jn 1:5 “*God is light*, (phos: to reveal) *and in him is no darkness.*”

He sent Jesus to enable us to “see” clearly! (1 Jn 1:4,5; Jn 8:12; Col 1:13; 2 Cor. 4:6,7)

1 Jn 1:7 “*if we walk in the light*, (of His Truth) *as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

To enable us to walk in His truth, (light) God's provides many “truths” about how God sees us. God sees us as a Hidden Treasure (Mt 13:44); Costly Pearls (Mt 13:44,46); Clay in the Potter's hands (Jer. 18:1-6; Isaiah 64:8; The Bride of Jesus (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7) and “The Sheep of God's Pasture” (Ps. 100:3; Ps. 23)

### The Problems of God's Sheep (Pt. 2)

#### 1. We and actual sheep share many of the same tendencies or problems.

A. We are prone to “Wander.” Is. 53:6 “*All we like sheep have gone astray...*”

B. We are Prone to “Poison.” (False Doctrine/Deception) Ps. 23:5 “*Thou preparest a table before me...*”

C. We're Prone to “Predators” Ps. 23:5 “*thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.*”

D. We're prone to “Division.”

1) Sheep are natural “followers” so Satan seeks to infiltrate the flock with Bitterness/Rebellion:

1 Sam 15:23 “*rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...*” and Bitterness is infectious! (Heb. 12:15)

2) Satan tries to accomplish this through:

a) False (selfish) Shepherds. (leaders/influencers) Acts 20:28-30

b) False (selfish) Sheep (Followers) Ro 16:17-18 “*mark them which cause divisions and offences ...*”

1 Thes 5:12-14 “*be at peace among yourselves. ...warn them that are unruly*” (a'taktos: insubordinate)

3) Division produces Decisions! (choices) 1Cor 11:18-19 “*there be divisions among you... (Schisma: splits or gaps{ from schizo: to tear}) there must be also heresies among you, (Hair'esis: disunion, a choice) that they which are approved (dokimos: tested and current after assayal) may be manifest*”

a) Our choices reveal our level of maturity. 1 Cor. 3:1-3

#### D. We're Prone to Panic (easily spooked)

1) We're Easily influenced!

a) Everyone influences someone!

b) The closer we are, the more influence we feel.

c) Sullen, angry sheep influence those around them.

This can produce a “ripple effect” where others can get “caught up”, confused and hurt.

2) Influence can lead to infection!

a) Sheepstrike (Myiasis) comes from flies laying larva in unprotected face/head (or wounds) of sheep. Transferred when sheep “rub up against each other”

b) Hurting people often HURT PEOPLE! Ro 16:17,18; Pr. 16:27,28;

Pr. 6:16-19 Pr 6:16-19 refers to this as sowing “seeds of discord” and an “abomination”

**c) Remember Satan is known as:**

(1) Baal-zebub (2 Kings 1:2, 3, 6, 16; Mt 10:25) Literally «The Lord of the flies (Filth)»

(2) Rev. 12:10 *"the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."*

We're never more like Satan than when we rebel and spread the infection of bitterness/backbiting!

Gal 5:15-16 *"if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."*

**d) Remember Korah's rebellion! Numbers 16**

(1) Korah (Dathan & Abiram) "took men" (vs 1)

(2) Those "took" 250 others. vs 2 *"famous in the congregation and they Gathered together against Moses"* Vs 3

(3) God publicly "tested" them (16-20) (See also 1 Cor. 11:18,19)

(4) God publicly judged them. Vs 20-35

(5) The infection spreads to *"the whole congregation"* (vs 41)

(6) God sent a "Plague" that killed 14,700 more! Vs 49 (James 3:5,6)

**e) Wise shepherds rub medicinal oil on their heads to prevent larva/mite infections.**

Ps. 23:5 *"Thou annointest my head with oil..."* Oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit. Zech 4:6

**f) Most "infections" can easily be resolved if we follow Christ's prescription. (Mt 18)**

(1) Jesus addresses the inevitability of "offences" vs 7

(2) He shares the parable of the lost sheep. (vs 11-14)

(3) Gives directions on how to resolve offences. (15-17)

(4) Warns about the consequences of unforgiveness. (21-33)

(a) Pride causes contentions/offence (Pr. 13:10) & *keeps us from forgiveness / reconciliation.*

(b) This inevitably "infects us" with bitterness.

(c) We tend to "infect" others. (Heb. 13:15)

**F. We're also Prone to becoming "bloated."**

1) This condition is called becoming "cast". (gasses in stomach cause bloating when on back)

2) Usually caused by being overweight (Heb 5:12-14) or having too much wool.

3) If they don't get help quickly, they can die within a day! Gal. 6:1

**Conclusion: We, like sheep, are prone to:**

➤ Wander (Get distracted and sidetracked) Jms 1:14-16

➤ Poison (Ingest unhealthy things) 1 Thes. 5:21,22

➤ Predators (Fall prey to evil/deceit) 2 Tim. 3:13

➤ Division (Often motivated by pride) 1 Cor 3:1-4

➤ Panic (Influenced/Infected) Heb. 12:15

➤ Bloat (Overtaken and overwhelmed) Gal. 6:1

**Application: What's the solution to these Problems? Staying Close to the Shepherd!**

Ps. 23:1 *"The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want!"* (ḥāsēr': lack or fail)

1 Pt. 5:7 *"Casting all your cares upon Him, For he careth for you."*

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