

LBC- Flattery, Lies, and the Truth

John 1:43-49

⁴³ The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He *found Philip. And Jesus *said to him, “Follow Me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip *found Nathanael and *said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip *said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and *said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”⁴⁸ Nathanael *said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”

Jesus celebrated a “true Israelite” in whose character there was no guile!

John 4:23

²³ But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

John 8:43-44

⁴³ Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Revelation 22:15

¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

Guile/deceit: Telling lies and living Lies.

The root of guile is, similarly, GUILT.

For this reason, there is a quality that very often accompanies guile: Flattery

Marketing: managing perception

Flattery is a carefully crafted design- a flatterer is ‘marketing’ him/herself to others.

2 Dangers: Using Flattery and Succumbing to Flattery

Using Flattery

Job 32:21-22

²¹ “Let me now be partial to no one, Nor flatter *any* man. ²² “For I do not know how to flatter, *Else* my Maker would soon take me away.

What are the biblical associations of a lifestyle marked with flattery?

Enemies of righteousness (Psalm 5:9), the adulteress woman engaged in seduction (Prov. 7:21), unfaithful men (Psalm 12), and Ungodly Sinners (Jude 1)

Flattery flows out of a weakness in us- insecurity, guilt- and preys upon a weakness in others- pride.

1 Peter 3:10

¹⁰ For, "The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

Succumbing to Flattery

Proverbs 26:28

²⁸ A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 26:24-26

²⁴ He who hates disguises *it* with his lips, But he lays up deceit in his heart. ²⁵ When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart. ²⁶ *Though his* hatred covers itself with guile, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

Flattery is the product of a guilty heart that is concealing abominations, hatred, and manifold wickedness.

Flattery is not innocent- it is intended at best to deceive us, or at worst to lead us into a snare!

Matthew 22:15-21

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said. ¹⁶ And they *sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. ¹⁷ Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show Me the coin *used* for the poll-tax." And they brought Him a denarius. ²⁰ And He *said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They *said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He *said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."

If we want our words to powerful like Jesus' words, we have to be absolutely committed to the truth!

John 7:7

⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.

Proverbs 28:23

²³ He who rebukes a man will afterward find *more* favor Than he who flatters with the tongue.

Ephesians 5:6-10

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them; ⁸ for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.