

## Confusion: The Devil's Open Door — Part Two

### ***Heresy in the House: How the Enemy Tried to Divide the Early Church***

*“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:33).*

### **Introduction**

**Since Satan could not kill the early Church with persecution, he tried to confuse it with perversion! The enemy's next strategy was not lions in the Colosseum — it was lies in the congregation.** From Jerusalem to Galatia, from Corinth to Ephesus, the early Church was assaulted by false doctrines designed to unravel its unity and weaken its witness.

Hear me — confusion is not neutral. It is spiritual. The spirit realm feeds on it. **Demons traffic in distortion. They twist the Word of God just enough to rob it of power. From Eden onward, Satan's method has always been the same: “Has God really said?” (Genesis 3:1). The devil's deadliest weapons are not swords of iron but lies of influence.**

**When hell could not stop the Church from growing, it tried to divide the Church from within.**

- Every false doctrine is demonically designed to fracture fellowship and dilute power.

## 1. The Judaizers: Legalism Masquerading as Gospel

The first great heresy the apostles faced came from the Judaizers. These were Jewish Christians insisting Gentiles had to keep the Mosaic Law — circumcision, kosher laws, feast days — to be saved. It was more than cultural baggage; it was a demonic attempt to *reverse the Cross* and drag the Church back under the very covenant Christ had fulfilled.

- They followed Paul from church to church like wolves shadowing a shepherd, whispering, ***“Christ alone is not enough — you need Moses too.”***
- But Paul thundered back in **Galatians 5:1: “Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”**
- And when the matter reached boiling point, the apostles convened the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15. That council was nothing less than the Spirit’s courtroom — and the verdict was clear: ***“We believe***

***it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved, just as they are” (Acts 15:11).***

**Legalism was hell’s first heresy. If Satan can add to grace, he subtracts from Christ. Anything you add to the cross subtracts from the cross.**

- *Christ plus nothing equals everything. Christ plus anything equals nothing.*

## **2. The Gnostics: Secret Knowledge Replacing Truth**

Next came the spirit of Gnosticism. Birthed out of Greek philosophy, it taught that spirit was good, matter was evil, and salvation came through secret knowledge.

- ***It was elitism wrapped in mysticism.***
- It whispered, *“Faith is too simple. You need enlightenment. You need a deeper mystery.”*

**This divided the Church into spiritual aristocrats and spiritual peasants. Worse, it diminished Christ’s humanity — teaching He only *appeared* to be human (Docetism). If Christ wasn’t truly flesh, then He didn’t truly suffer, and if He didn’t truly suffer, He didn’t truly redeem.**

John thundered against it: “*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” (John 1:14). **Paul warned the Colossians: “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy” (Col. 2:8).**

- Gnosticism was demonically inspired elitism. **It fed pride, fractured fellowship, and attacked the incarnation itself.**

**Core Beliefs of Gnosticism** - Though Gnosticism had many branches, most strands shared these key ideas:

### **1. Dualism:**

- Spirit is good, matter is evil.
- The physical world (your body, creation itself) is a prison; the spirit longs to escape.

### **2. The “Demiurge”:**

- Now, church, let me tell you how the Gnostics saw the world. They said the God of the Old Testament, the God who made heaven and earth, wasn’t the real God at all. They called Him the *Demiurge* — a kind of lower, ignorant being who messed up when He created the world. In their view, creation was evil, the body was a prison, and only secret knowledge could get you out.

- Do you see the lie? If creation is evil, then Genesis 1 is false. If the God of Israel isn't the true God, then Jesus lied when He called Him *Father*. And if the body is a prison, then Jesus couldn't have taken on flesh, couldn't have died a real death, and couldn't have risen again.
- **That's why John shouted with fire: '*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us!*' He was saying, 'Don't believe the lie — the true God made this world, and He entered it to save it.'**

### 3. Secret Knowledge for Salvation:

- Only an enlightened few could discover the secret truths that allowed escape from this evil material realm.
- This created an elitist divide: the “spiritual” vs. the “ordinary.”

### 4. Christology Twisted:

- Since matter was evil, they could not accept that Jesus truly became flesh.
- Some taught He only *appeared* human (*Docetism*).
- Others taught the “Christ-spirit” temporarily descended on the man Jesus at baptism and left before the crucifixion (so He didn't really suffer).

**The cross is not a code to be cracked — it is a gift to be received. Any gospel that makes you proud instead of humble is not the Gospel at all.**

### **3. The Nicolaitans: Grace Turned Into License**

Then came the Nicolaitans — a sect mentioned twice in Revelation. It is believed by several early church fathers that it was directly tied to Nicolas the proselyte of Antioch (Acts 6:5) or, at the least, merely using his name, they twisted grace into license.

- **They told believers: “*You’re free in Christ, so why not feast in the idol’s temple? Why not indulge the flesh? Grace covers it all.*”**

**This was not liberty — it was lawlessness. By blurring the line between the Church and the world, they sought to make the Bride of Christ indistinguishable from the harlot of Babylon.**

- **And hear the words of Jesus: “*This you hate, which I also hate*” (Rev. 2:6).** Strong language. Why? Because **COMPROMISE KILLS CONSECRATION**.
- Without consecration, there is no power.

- **Satan doesn't need to persecute a worldly church — he just partners with it.**

***Grace is not the permission to sin; it is the power to overcome sin.***

**The Church that marries the spirit of the age will be a widow in the next age.**

- Cultural compromise might feel safe now, but it guarantees future ruin — because the Church has forsaken the eternal Bridegroom for a temporary lover.

Scripture consistently describes the Church as Christ's bride (Eph. 5:25–27; Rev. 19:7–9). Her fidelity is to Him alone. Her role is to keep herself pure, awaiting His return. **Any other “marriage” — whether with culture, politics, philosophy, or trends — is spiritual adultery (James 4:4).**

**“Marrying the spirit of the age”** - The “spirit of the age” (*zeitgeist* in German, literally “spirit of the times”) refers to the dominant values, morals, and cultural currents of a given era. **Every age has its spirit — Rome had one, the Enlightenment had one, modern secularism has one.**

## **When the Church compromises truth to align with these trends, it's like taking another lover.**

Examples:

- In the first century, the Nicolaitans compromised with Roman idol feasts.
- In the Middle Ages, parts of the Church compromised with political power and corruption.
- Today, churches often compromise biblical truth to gain cultural acceptance.

**It leads to widowhood** - Every age passes away. Cultural fads, political movements, and moral fashions rise and fall. What looks powerful today becomes dust tomorrow. If the Church has tied herself to those powers, when they collapse, she is left widowed.

- The Roman Empire fell — and with it many churches that had tied themselves to its system.
- Liberal Protestantism embraced 19th–20th century rationalism and modernism — those movements are now dead, and those churches are shells of what they once were.
- Any church that weds today's spirit (be it secularism, hyper-nationalism, or progressive relativism) will be



left widowed when that spirit dies, because she abandoned her Bridegroom.

**Jesus is the only Bridegroom who endures forever. Everything else is temporary.**

**If the Church “marries” anything else, she is destined for widowhood — because the spirit of the age cannot save, cannot sustain, and cannot endure.**

#### **4. The Resurrection Deniers: Twisting Hope Into Confusion**

Perhaps the deadliest strike of all came against resurrection itself.

- **In Athens, Greek philosophers mocked Paul for preaching it (Acts 17:32).**
- **In Corinth, some denied it entirely.**
- **In Ephesus, Hymenaeus and Philetus said it was already past — only a spiritual experience.**

**This was not harmless speculation. This was a satanic strike at the very heart of hope.**

- If there is no resurrection, there is no victory over death.

- If there is no resurrection, then Christ Himself is still in the grave.
- And if there is no resurrection, Paul says plainly: “*Your faith is futile; you are still in your sins*” (1 Cor. 15:17).

**Demons feed on despair. If the enemy can rob you of hope in the resurrection, he can drain your endurance in suffering and silence your witness in the present.**

- A Church without resurrection hope is just a social club waiting to die.
- If the devil can confuse your future, he will cripple your present.

## **5. The Antichrists: Confusion Through Counterfeit Christ**

Finally, John warns: “***Even now many antichrists have come***” (1 John 2:18). This was not just a single figure in the future, but false apostles, miracle workers, and prophets exalting themselves in the present.

- Simon Magus in Acts 8 tried to buy the Holy Spirit’s power.
- Paul warned of “false apostles, deceitful workers” who disguised themselves as messengers of light (2 Cor. 11:13–14).

- Wolves infiltrated the flock to draw disciples after themselves (Acts 20:29–30).

This was confusion through counterfeit Christ —  
**CHARISMA WITHOUT CROSS, ANOINTING WITHOUT AUTHENTICITY.**

- Satan cannot create a Christ, but he can create counterfeits. And the closer the counterfeit looks to the real, the more dangerous it becomes.
- **Counterfeit Christs are confusion wrapped in charisma.**

**Beloved, the devil's early playbook hasn't changed:**

- Judaizers: add to Christ through legalism
- Gnostics: replace Christ with reason
- Nicolaitans: cheapen Christ with compromise
- Resurrection deniers: empty Christ with defeatism
- Antichrists: counterfeit Christ with charisma

**But in every case, the apostles fought back with the Word, the Spirit, and the authority of truth.**

**Every heresy is hell's attempt to confuse the Gospel and divide the Body.**

- Truth is still heaven's weapon against confusion — and the Word still cuts every lie down.
- The same Spirit who silenced heresy then empowers us now to stand in truth and in unity.

**Now listen to me — confusion is not just history; it is here and now.**

**The same spirits that tried to fracture the early Church are still whispering today: add to Christ, replace Christ, compromise Christ, deny Christ, counterfeit Christ.**

- But God is not the author of confusion — He is the author of peace. The question tonight is simple: *What voice have you been or are you going to listening to?*
- If you've allowed the enemy to tangle you in legalism, or seduce you with compromise, or rob you of hope, or distract you with counterfeit voices — tonight is the night to shut the door on confusion!