

Resisting Mind Manipulation

Analyzing The Methods Which The World Uses To Fight Truth

Chapter 1

The Results Of Mind Manipulation

Though numerous philosophies and opinions surround us, ultimately all of them belong to just two groups: the Divine Viewpoint and the Human Viewpoint.

All our lives we would have to face the struggle between these two viewpoints, with each one of them trying to control us. As long as the present human life lasts on the earth, this fight would go on. There is no way to escape this struggle. Whether we are headed for blessing or cursing in life would depend upon which of these viewpoints we choose continually.

The way in which Peter was pressured in Galatia indirectly by the Jewish believers is an example of this ongoing struggle between the two viewpoints. In this case Paul had to rebuke Peter so as to show him the Divine viewpoint. The way in which Abraham lied about his wife, the way in which Samson rejected the biblical advice of his parents, and the way in which Solomon listened meekly to his gentile wives are examples of believers walking according to Human Viewpoint.

No believer is perfect, and everyone occasionally falls into the trap of Human Viewpoint. However, if a believer willingly chooses to walk continually according to the Human Viewpoint, he opens up himself to harmful changes at the mental level. Such changes are often long-lasting, and they have deep impact upon a believer's overall outlook. The barriers are defeated, and he indulges in things in which ought not involve.

The actual changes taking place in the minds of a careless believer are too numerous to list in a book because they manifest in many ways in the lives of individuals. However, all of them can be placed into a small number groups. Once these categories are understood, it is easy to discern the numerous ways in which these changes manifest themselves. These categories are:

1-Changing Of Values

2-Shifting Of Focus

3-Uncontrollable Thought Life

4-Sinful Choices

We will study these in detail in the next chapters, followed by the methods to resist them.

Chapter 2

The Results Of Mind Manipulation -- 2

Attempts to manipulate human minds has been going on since creation. Some have been able to resist them, while others have been not been sufficiently careful. When a person carelessly yields himself to mind-manipulation (through obvious or nonobvious means), the following changes take place in him:

1-Changing Of Values: The norms and standards using which things are measured are

called values. The high and low values assigned to different types of thoughts, actions, and choices govern the way in which a believer chooses things in life.

The value of things in life depend upon the value assigned to them by the Scriptures. The perception and appreciation of these scriptural values depends in turn upon the boundaries, so that two people with different boundaries might attach different values to the same action or choice. One would value it scripturally while the other would value it according to Human Viewpoint.

Right choices are influenced heavily by values. When values shift, people are unable to distinguish between right and wrong. The example of Sons of God in Genesis 6 illustrates this. People with shifted values are often unable to distinguish between good and evil, like Lot's incestuous daughters. Value-shifted people are often unable to distinguish between righteous and unrighteous behaviour, as in the case of Joseph's brothers.

Values help people in distinguishing between essentials and nonessentials. When values are confused, this distinction is also confused, as in the case of Esau. He sold his birthright, without pausing to think that the God-given birthright should not be traded at any cost ! Thus he carelessly decided that it was worth only just about a cup of lentils, or even less !

The firmness with which a person handles things also depends upon the value he assigns to different issue. A person not having values based in the Scriptures would resort to expediency instead of firmness. He would tend to behave like a jellyfish, having no firm stand on any significant or tough issue. Peter's expediency in Galatia, and his denial of the Lord are examples where he lacked firmness. Fear had played havoc with his mind.

The way in which believers these days imitate the world, in marriages, in spiritual meetings, during funeral services, and the way they like to exhibit felicitations are also some examples of changing values. What ought to be of little value to believers are often given great importance, while things that are actually important are given only secondary importance. The way in which the Pharisees strained out the gnat but swallowed the camels, and the way in which the speck in another believer's eyes bothers some people more than the beam in their own eyes are some more examples of shifting of values.

The way in which the young generation esteems clothing, appearance, peers, and the society above spiritual things is also an examples of changing values. These are the results on the ongoing mind manipulation at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

2-Shifting Of Focus: Christian life is a race and a warfare. It is also a wrestling, cultivation, and a lengthy process of building. In each of these activities, the eyes of believers should always be at the goal. If they do not focus upon the goal, the building project would become either imbalanced, or it would even fail totally.

When the focus shifts, some sort of a reversal also takes place so that the minor things look major while the major things are seen as minor. The majority of present-day Church fights can be placed in this category. Often the original issues are trivial, while the mutual abuse that take place through these carnal fights are an abomination to the Lord. Yet people do not seem to notice this.

People with shifted or distorted focus fail often to distinguish between what they deserve and what they do not. Solomon's half-brother who went to Bethseba and asked for the hand of Abishag in marriage had fallen into this trap. He was so much attracted by her beauty, that he forgot that according to their social customs Abishag occupied the position of his mother ! This was a serious crime according to Old Testament Law too, and this is why Solomon could execute him without offering pardon.

People with shifted focus often show a tendency towards Criminal/Victim Exchange. This is a situation where the criminal poses as the victim, and accuses that the victim is the person who actually perpetrated the crime ! This can be seen in the cases of Zipporah, Elijah, and Jonah. Each one of them was guilty against God, but each one posed as the victim, and blamed someone else for their self-created miseries. We see this many times among students who fail in exams. Instead of saying that "I failed" they prefer to say that the teacher flunked them, or that they are yet to "get" a subject. The reasoning is that if the teacher flunked the student, then it is the teacher who is responsible for it ! Further, if they have to "get" something, then the "giver" is at fault if it is not "given" to the student. Thus the entire blame is shifted away from the careless student to somebody other than himself. The trap is so subtle that even mature believers sometimes think and behave in this manner.

Two kinds of phenomena can be seen in life: things that give an immediate result but which do not last much, and things that give lasting result but which cannot be obtained immediately. Wise people invest in lasting things while immature people chase things that are only immediate. One of the modern Christian martyrs (in south America) is said to have written in his diary:

He is no fool who forsakes things that he cannot keep, so that he might gain things that he cannot lose.

It takes a lot of wisdom to discern the difference between things that are immediate and things that are lasting. With shifted focus, however, the real distinction is forgotten and people prefer to chase the immediate over the lasting ones. This is seen in the way in which many people make all sorts of compromises so as to gain man's approval. All the while they overlook that it is God's approval that lasts. The example of Ananias and Saphira also illustrates the same point. They preferred man's praise over divine approval and indulged in a quick solution !

Lasting human relationships need some motivating factors. According to the Bible, our personal commitment should provide this motivation. However, the world teaches that the benefit that one can get from the person, thing, or organization (with which one enters into a relationship) is the motivating factor in the ongoing relationship. Thus instead of the biblical model of Commitment Based Relationship, people with shifted focus move to Transaction Based Relationships. Thus such persons view all relationships in the light of "what can I get" instead of "what is expected of me" attitude. This shifting focus from commitment to demand is one reason for the increasing breakups in marital and family relationships. It all begins when people carelessly allow the world to tamper with the Bible-based boundaries in their minds.

With shifting of focus comes shifting of personal responsibility. Thus what is to be done at personal level is often relegated to the evangelist, the teachers, the public, the church, or even to the society. The way in which people view the responsibility of bringing up children is an example. What parents ought to do (instructing children in spiritual matters, leading them to God) within the confines of the family, now many of them expected the Sunday school to do. This responsibility-shifting can be seen in all spheres of life, and the sequence of shifting goes something like the following:

Personal --> Family --> Church --> Public/Society --> Nation

This responsibility shifting comes with shifting focus. But in our society things can go back to normal only if individuals take their responsibilities seriously and do not shift it to others. When individuals would consider their responsibilities seriously, the family, the church, the society, and the nation would improve in the same order.

3-Uncontrollable Thought Life: Left to itself, the human mind can conjure up an endless variety of ideas. These thoughts might range from the loftiest to the most degenerate. Not all of these thoughts are suitable for the mental or spiritual health of the person entertaining these thoughts. Thus some sort of a control is needed to keep these thoughts from becoming unrestrained. However, mind is not a machine that can be turned on or off at will. Consequently, the only solution is self-control of one's thought world.

In this sinful world, and in his sinful body, no human being can exercise total or perfect control of his thought world. However, everyone can attempt to control his thoughts to a level that is satisfactory or SUFFICIENT. We read in 1 Corinthians 14:32 and 33 that "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints". In verse 40 we read that "Let all things be done decently and in order". Among other things, this is a reminder that the thought life needs to be controlled to a satisfactory level.

A person who allows his mind to be controlled by the world eventually finds himself in a situation where he is not at all able to control his thought world. Meditating upon good things distract and tire him, while thinking about evil and lustful things keep him totally alert. At least three things become prominent in such a person's life.

The first is an objectivity/subjectivity interchange. Human life is a very complex affair, involving a lot of assessment. Such evaluation demands total objectivity and honesty. However, the natural tendency of the human heart is towards subjectivity and bias. Consequently, where objectivity is needed this person becomes subjective and where a little subjectivity is needed this person becomes unnecessarily rigid.

The case of David with Bathsheba and of Eve with the forbidden fruit remind that they did not evaluate their lust and its consequences objectively. Job's wife did not objectively trust in God, but rather became bitter because of her subjectivity. Jonah ran away from his commission because the Israelites hated Assyrians. However, instead of bowing to his subjective feelings against those people, he should have heeded to the call to bring hundreds of thousands of perishing souls to God.

There are many Christian groups today who instead of asking "what is the Biblical truth" substitute the question "what do I feel". This way they replace the objective and infallible Word of God with the subjective and depraved human feelings. Objectivity and subjectivity have been interchanged.

The second change seen is a tendency for Blame Shifting. Man creates many of his problems by his own choice. Yet many people prefer to lay the blame upon someone else rather than accepting that they are the culprits. The present-day young generation creates a lot of problems for itself through lack of self-discipline, lack of commitment, lack of long-term goals, lack of discernment, and lack of self-control.

All such choices have consequences. Yet when these young people face the consequences of their own choices they prefer to blame their parents, family, teachers, friends, the society, or the circumstances. That is blame-shifting, and this dishonesty is the result of an uncontrolled thought-world. This can be seen in the lives of Adam, Eve, Elijah, and Jonah. When the bitter results of their choices manifested, each one of them tried to place the blame for their choices on someone else.

The third change seen in such a person is an unhealthy mental occupation with sins, lust, and competition. The natural tendency of the depraved human mind is occupation with sins, lust and, competition with others. However, the growing believer learns to control these

because of increasing maturity and sanctification. Since the world, the flesh, and the devil (the threefold enemies of every believer) constantly strive to attract the believer, even a mature a believer can lapse into sinful thoughts.

In Bible we note occupation with lust in Amnon, Samson, David, Solomon and many others. Lust for money can be seen in Bileam. Competition with others can be seen in Ananias/Saphira in Acts, and Euodias/Syntiche in the Epistle to Philippians.

4-Sinful Choices: The ultimate aim of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil (the threefold enemies of the believers) is to lead believers into a sinful lifestyle. Such lifestyle would eventually lead them into a backslidden state, and then the Devil can relax. One more soldier of the enemy camp has been deactivated. Obviously, most believers do not want to become backsliders, and therefore the Devil has to use other strategies.

As seen in this book, mind-manipulation is one of these strategies. As seen in this chapter, when believers are not careful to protect themselves, they subject themselves to easy mind manipulation. The first three results are: Changing Of Values, Shifting Of Focus, Uncontrollable Thought Life. Obviously, all of these three factors join together to produce the fourth and the most serious result: they succeed in motivating the believer to make sinful choices.

Many of us sadly witness believers living in sin. We also witness with grief believers becoming backsliders. What we should not forget is that none of these things take place in a moment. While the results of spiritual fall might become manifest suddenly, this is only the result of a lengthy process. A process in which the believer did not guard his mind, but allowed his spiritual enemies to tamper with the boundaries.

The Word of God is very clear. A believer is a warrior. He should live with a combat mentality, and with God's empowerment he should fight against everything that rises against his faith. According to 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare [are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;]) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled".

Chapter 3

Strategies Used For Mind Manipulation

Every attempt at Mind Control is a battle. All battles need arms/ammunition, soldiers, and the proper strategy. For victory, all three of them should be available in the right proportion.

For example, arms, ammunition, and soldiers without proper strategy would not ensure victory. Since everything else except the strategy is visible to everyone, there is a possibility of ignoring the strategy of the enemy. Rather than realizing its importance, there is a tendency in the spiritual war to downplay the importance of enemy strategy. And here most believers lose. According to his well thought out plan, the enemy attacks from the most unexpected directions and in the most unforeseen manner. The result is a defeated believer. Thus the reason for emphasizing Mind Manipulation Strategies in this chapter.

The basic strategies are few in number, but they have been well tried by the World and

Devil. They have proved to be very effective in attaining their goal of Mind Manipulation, especially in the presence of Helping Factors. These strategies are:

1-Repeated Exposure To Experiences

2-Consistent Repetition Of Ideas

3-Depth Targeting Of Human Mind

4-Emotional Manipulation Of People

We will discuss each one of these in greater detail:

1-Repeated Exposure To Experience: Every person brought up in a God-fearing family knows his boundaries. He knows that certain things are essential, others are tolerable, and still others are totally forbidden for him. Due to prolonged training, this person even learns to hate and avoid forbidden activities. Most people are even shocked at the mention of these things that require crossing of boundaries. (Disrespect for parents, Disrespect for God and spiritual things, Lewd and vulgar conversation, Pornography, Intoxication, Loose sexual morals, etc.).

Though the forbidden things shock these godly people, the shock can be reduced by repeated exposure. Like hands of kitchen-workers that become insensitive to heat due to continuous handling of hot objects, continuous exposure destroys sensitivity and aversion against these things. The whole sequence works something like this:

First Exposure To Forbidden Things --> Recoil --> Repeated Exposure --> Reduction Of Recoil --> Toleration --> Development Of Curiosity --> Development Of Interest --> Liking It --> Desiring It --> Grabbing It.

The above is a simple explanation of how a previously innocent and devout person, who shuddered even at the thought of evil, ends up loving, desiring, and embracing evil with pride.

2-Consistent Repetition Of Ideas: False ideas, doctrines, and promises immediately alert people. Thus they cannot easily gain acceptance or access to their minds. However, if these false ideas are consistently portrayed as true, this repetition gradually begins to alter the thinking of the recipients. Eventually a time comes when the False is accepted as totally and unquestionable true. Once this stage is reached, this person does not accept truth as true even if it is placed in front of his eyes.

The above technique is used every day by amateur as well as professional Mind Manipulators. As a consequence most people are convinced that there is an over-population problem, that overpopulation is the cause of lawlessness, that there is a scarcity of natural resources, that late marriages are better, and that families with few children (or no children at all) are better than larger families. Young people are brainwashed into believing that premarital sex and extramarital sex would have no adverse effects. None of these beliefs have solid proofs, and many of them have now been shown to be false. For example, the actual cause for lawlessness and resource-crunch in our country is political corruption, not over-population. However, the erroneous views have been repeated so consistently that people now believe them as gospel truth.

3-Depth Targeting Of Human Mind: Depth Targeting is a psychological technique discovered around nineteen thirties. Much investigation has been done over the years in this field, particularly by political and consumer propagandists.

Man's sin nature seriously affects the way he thinks and makes choices, specially at the

SUBCONSCIOUS level. Depth targeting therefore tries to touch humans at this subconscious level, motivating them to do things that they would otherwise not do. Most professional advertisers and propagandists rely upon it.

Many consumer products available in the market go against the sober tastes, choices, and ethics of God fearing people. These include fashion accessories, lewd clothing, things that flaunt one's riches, and things where one's ethics has to be violated (such as premarital sex, and the use of contraceptives for it), smoking, drinking, and other such activities. This also includes pornographic books, videos, songs, and other products that go with it. In a market that is over saturated with normal consumer products, only these abnormal products can help some people to make profits.

What's more, the profit margin obtained by selling the abnormal products is several times the profit margin available in normal products. Thus man's increasing greed results in their desire to sell more of the abnormal products than the normal ones. However, selling abnormal and harmful products is not easy in a society permeated with godly and civil values. Consequently, before these people can sell a consumer product, they have to shift and twist the values cherished by people. Here Depth Targeting comes to their help.

Value Shifting is essential not only for selling many consumer products, but also for selling them in economical quantities. Often a society with freedom-for-everything is needed for such economical sales. Thus Depth Targeting is used for producing such shift. The new values affect many areas of our lives some of which are:

CLOTHING AND FASHIONS: Depth Targeting is used to convince people that wearing clothing that are seductive, provocative, and revealing are not wrong, but the most sophisticated thing to do. This immediately increases the sales and wearing of lewd and revealing clothes. The old values stated that one should not fan the lustful passions of others. The new value teaches that fanning the lust in others is the right thing to do. Such influence is the reason why even believers are often seen to wear seductive clothing.

Depth Targeting is also used to sell after-shave lotions, cigarettes, liquor, and even underwear for men. What they say through these advertisements is that their using product makes a man "totally manly" ! The value-shift takes place when they indoctrinate people into believing that real manliness is not based upon WHO you are, but is based upon WHAT you are able to acquire. This is a totally anti biblical idea.

The same Depth Targeting approach is used to sell lipstick, eyeshadow, perfumes and dresses to women. The message is that these product give them "real womanness". The value-shift takes place through the suggestion that real womanness does not depend upon WHO you are, but upon WHAT all you are able to acquire. Again this is a totally anti biblical idea.

Depth Targeting in all the cases above alter the values and behaviour of people for the express purpose of selling consumer products manufactured by greedy merchants. However, the ultimate result of allowing such manipulation is totally altered spiritual, ethical, moral, and social values. Many social and family problems that we face today can be attributed to Depth Targeting.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: According to Biblical values, a person should exercises self-control, sense of responsibility to others, and should exhibit stewardship in everything. Using Depth Targeting the Consumer Product Sellers convince people that the right thing to do is to become a show-off, wasting money lavishly instead of conserving it. They also indoctrinate that indulgence in costly exhibition and abnormal behaviour is the accepted thing. The consequence of all this can be seen in the costly and worldly ways in which even believers these days celebrate Birth Days, Marriage Anniversaries, Marriage Jubilees, Engagements,

Marriages, House Warming, and so on.

Most people do not realize that ultimately all such behaviour is the result of Mind Manipulation by the consumer industry. They do not realize that the more lavish these celebrations are, the greater is the profit to the business community. What is lost in this blind race is values, stewardship, and morality.

MUSIC AND AUDIOVISUALS: Music and audiovisuals have great power to penetrate deep into human minds. Subconscious can easily be manipulated using these. Thus music and audiovisuals have become the strongest partner of Depth Targeting. The easy and cheap availability of cassette players, CD players, and similar products have widened the reach of these media beyond anyone's wildest imagination. The result is an ability of propagandists to Depth Target an increased number of people, and this they are doing diligently. The result for them is raking in of loot. The result for the society is a blurring of the distinctions between sacred and profane, holy and unholy, right and wrong. The boundaries have been diminished, diluted, and even destroyed.

The value-shift that has taken place as a result of Depth Targeting in the second half of the twentieth century now openly manifests itself within the Christian community also. Many believers now think that the "show" element of a spiritual programme is more important than the "spirit" aspects of it. Consequently, there is an increased stress these days on the show aspects, making inaugurations, conclusions, and felicitations more important than the spiritual ministrations offered in these programmes.

In our marriages this can be seen in two ways. The presence of music groups for the sake of "show" is considered more important than the participation of the audience in singing songs unto God. Consequently, the presence of expensive music groups has been increasing, while audience-participation in this "spiritual event" has come almost to naught. Similarly, the way videographers are allowed to totally dominate and disturb the spiritual atmosphere is a sign of our changed thinking that "the ability to see a programme later is more important than allowing the marriage ceremony to be conducted in a serene and spiritual atmosphere". In summary, Depth Targeting has been so successful in the second half of the twentieth century that now even believers think that for the sake of momentary earthly pleasures and transient excitements, the more permanent spiritual influences can be abandoned. Very serious are the consequences of such thinking, but most people do not even realize that their hearts, minds, thoughts, actions, and attitudes have been made captive over the past few years through Depth Targeting.

Using Depth Targeting through advertisements, they shift the values and sell their products. Sales of the product in turn shifts the values further, and so on goes this vicious circle. Depth targeting works very well in advertisements that combine fantasy-arousing pictures coupled with tantalizing descriptions. More powerful are TV advertisements because they are animated and thus closer to life. The jingles and music added to TV advertisements multiply their already immense power. Songs, specially the modern pop and rock songs also help in shifting values, leading to increased sale of many consumer products like music products, seductive clothing, fashion paraphernalia, and others.

HERO WORSHIP AND DEPTH TARGETING: Depth Influences become most powerful when they are joined with Hero Worship. Man is a born hero worshipper by nature. This is demonstrated by the mad love and attraction which people show for music, film, and sports stars. This is also shown by the way in which people imitate the clothing, hair style, gestures, speech styles, life styles, values and morality of their favourite heroes.

The same is the reason why film stars, beauty queens, sports stars, and celebrities are paid huge ransom for endorsing consumer products through advertisements. The emotionally blind customers buy so much of the consumer product that the large payoffs made to the

models is returned manifold.

Since the heroes are perceived as special people, the worshippers place them upon the highest pedestals of respect and awe in their minds. All humans unconsciously look for role-models to imitate, and these heroes automatically become the role-models for their blind worshipers. Thus soon these worshipers start imitating their heroes. What should bother every thinking person is that conscious imitation of these heroes accounts only for 30 per cent of all such imitation. A whopping 70 per cent of imitation takes place unconsciously.

Unconsciously done things are often controlled by the unconscious mind, and not conscious evaluation or critique is involved. Thus in such imitation, the person does not pause to consider whether this action is morally, ethically, socially, and spiritually right and acceptable. Such a thought never even occurs to them. In other words, if the hero crosses boundaries of proper behaviour, the imitator also crosses those boundaries automatically and without being bothered about the violation. Once such behaviour manifests in a person, his conscience is calloused and eventually neutralized.

Girls and women addicted to the world of Fashions and Beauty contests try to imitate those women in actions and morals. Men who are attached to such programmes gradually develop the mental attitude that women are only consumer commodities, meant to be bared in front those who admire them, and those who are willing to pay them. Similar are the effects upon those who worship at the altar of immoral rock stars, wrestlers, film stars, and all the like.

It must also be noticed that the greater the exposure to such heroes, the greater in the change taking place in the worshiper. Further, if motivating factors are also present (such as parents who encourage this), the mental changes take place faster and at deeper levels. Unfortunately, all these changes that take place at the unconscious level are many times more dangerous and fatal compared to changes that take place at the conscious level.

4-Emotional Manipulation Of People: God has given intelligence to human beings so that they might evaluate the pros and cons of every choice before they make a decision. Emotions are given to supplement intelligence, not to dominate it. However, using certain well-known techniques it is possible to bypass a person's intelligence to directly touch and manipulate his emotions.

Since emotions are totally subjective and devoid of intelligence, such Emotion Manipulation is capable to making a person to do anything. All kinds of advertisers and propagandists use techniques to manipulate human emotions by bypassing human intelligence. We have included details of this phenomena in the write-up on Propaganda Techniques.

Circumstances And Factors That Aid Mind Control

When a Manipulator tries to control the Mind of a person, there are many factors that aid him. It is helpful to know the factors that help Mind Control and also those that oppose Mind Control. Such knowledge would help people to avoid factors that weaken them and embrace those factors that strengthen them. Some of these factors are:

IGNORANCE: The attempts for Mind Control can be likened to an ever-present battle. Wars can be won only if sufficient information is available about the enemy, his weapons, his strength, and his tactics. Similarly, in this battle between Good and Evil, it is essential to know all these things about the enemy.

Bible repeatedly mentions the simpletons who have no idea about dangers facing them. They fall into all kind of trap. In our generation, young men and women who have not been

instructed by their parents about the dangers they have to face in the world, fall into this category. Having no idea about the treacherous world system, these simpletons quickly fall into the traps of Mind Manipulation.

PEER DEPENDENCE: Christians should learn not to depend unnecessarily upon the favour of others. Anyone who depends too much upon others can easily be manipulated by them. More so if this dependence is for obtaining unlawful favours. It must never be forgotten that anyone who craves and accepts unnecessary (or out of proportion) obligations from others automatically places himself under unnecessary obligation to that person. This opens him to being pressurized easily to do things that he would like to avoid.

LACK OF PARENTAL SUPPORT: Since Satan is the prince of the present world, the things that he extols as good are not always acceptable as good to Christians. Many of these things are totally evil, but the majority is always with Satan. That is the reason why the "everyone is doing it" statement scares a lot of people.

To resist such pressures and attractions in the face of the majority requires tremendous inner strength and plenty of outer support. Such support should come primarily from one's family, and then from one's church and spiritual circle.

Parents who do not communicate freely and openly with their children, parents who do not take time to listen to their pains and problems, and parents who do not take time to offer them counsel and guidance, have failed to build a support system for their children. Such children are easily manipulated by worldly pressures.

ATMOSPHERE: The social and spiritual atmosphere prevailing around a person has tremendous power to arouse various kinds of passions in him. The world can create atmospheres such that they arouse base passions, lust, rebellion, anger, and even contempt for spiritual things. An atmosphere where one is surrounded with a mindless crowd can easily motivate one to get into a dangerous mob-mentality. An opposite kind of atmosphere can create totally opposite kind of feelings and responses.

In essence, if the atmosphere is not conducive to independent thinking, resisting evil, and hating sin, the person would become easily susceptible to Mind Manipulation.

Chapter 4

How To Resist Mind Manipulation

Mind Manipulation can be resisted only if the Apologist's strategy is proper. Since Mind Manipulation is used to attack many aspects of the Christian faith and theology, the strategy has to depend upon which aspect of attack is being considered.

Resisting Mind Manipulation In Personal Life: If the personal life of a believer is being considered, then solid spiritual preparation is the right strategy. This would involve obtaining proper Information, Discernment, Strength, and a preparation to flee the scene.

Resisting Mind Manipulation In Apologetics Situation: Many opponent's of Christian

truth use Mind Manipulation to attack the Christian faith. The right preparation involves a good understanding of their tools and strategies first. Then the Christian Apologist should sharpen his own tools, and then launch the attack through defense and offense.

For example, theological radicals often use the technique of peer pressure to make conservatives to conform to radical theology. Understanding this strategy, the Conservative Apologist should keep insisting for solid proof for the proposals that they bring against the Conservative faith. Suppose they claim that NOBODY these days accepts the traditional authorship attributed to Daniel, the Christian Apologist should not just fall for the trick. Rather, he should ask for the historical, archaeological, linguistic, and other proofs for these assertions. He should never accept these things on the basis of proofs that are less than concrete and objective.

Summary

Mind Manipulation is a vast subject, having a bearing upon all aspects of practical Christian life, including Christians Apologetics. The Christian Apologist should be aware that Mind Manipulation techniques are widely used to force Bible believing Christians to conform to their more radical brethren. They should not yield an inch to these people, but for that they would have to be prepared with sufficient homework.

About The Author

Dr. Johnson C. Philip is a Christian Apologist based in Ernakulam. He received the degree of Th.D. in Apologetics in 1984 and Ph.D. in Physics (Quantum Chromodynamics) in 1991. So far he has authored more than 2500 popular articles and research papers and more than 50 books in the fields of physics, communication, apologetics, and theology. This includes many Indian "firsts" like a Systematic Theology and a 4-volume Bible Encyclopaedia, both in the Malayalam language.

He is a voting member of numerous professional societies including: Creation Research Society, American Scientific Affiliation, The Society Of Christian Philosophers, Indian Physics Association, etc. He is a founder and life member of the Indian Association Of Physics Teachers.