

The artificial sweetness of Satan

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By Jk Hamilton

If you have diabetes, know anyone with diabetes, or even if you're a health conscious citizen one of the things you try your best to avoid is too much sugar. In that attempt to avoid too much sugar, people replace the sugar with artificial sweetener. It is not pure sugar, it doesn't come from the same place sugar comes from. However, it looks like sugar and tastes like sugar yet the inevitable, undisputable, irrefutable truth is that it is not sugar. It's artificial. Un-natural. Fake. Fictional. False. At the end of the day no matter how sweet it is or how pure it looks, the fact will never change that it's artificial. It is a substandard alternative; not an upgrade...a downgrade.

I believe that there is a spiritual application in that the adversary, the devil, is the master of all things false, fake and artificial. He lures many people into his influence by offering an alternative to the authenticity of God's will, word and way. Listen to what the Lord says to the Jews concerning Satan...

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, Because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
- John 8:44

Jesus identified the adversary as the father of lies. This is to say that the devil is the originator of all things artificial and unauthentic. What he offers cannot be trusted as genuine and anyone who accepts what he offers is not wise. Similar to the popular brands of artificial sweeteners today the devil offers his temptation in the following ways:

Equal: The devil offers doctrines that appear to be equal in truth. He offers attitudes that appear to be equal in righteousness. The bible declares that there is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death (proverbs 16:25). The very first temptation was the acceptance of a substitute that was passed off as being equal to what God established. All fruit was not equal but when the first man did not want to abide in the will of God he became tempted to accept Satan's alternative being convinced that it was equal to God's will and that it produces equal results. However, the wages of sin is STILL death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23). The wages of Sin and the gift of God may seem equal, but the end tells the story...ways of death or eternal life. It is thus better to remain disciplined in God's pure will than to fall for the devils "Equal".

Sweet and Low: If he can't allure you with Equal, the devil offers an equivalent called sweet and low. It has the sweet euphoric effect of the will of God but when the sweetness fades, when the euphoria wears off, it leaves you at a low place before God. Moses refused this artificial

alternative. Listen to the word in Hebrews 11:24,25:

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Moses could have settled for the Sweet and Low of the adversary but because of his faith he settled for the delayed gratification in doing the will of God. The artificial sweetness of the devils "sweet n low" is temporary. Growing up as a kid I loved Hubba Bubba chewing gum. However, as much as I loved it, one thing I despised about it was that it would start out soft and sweet but eventually become hard and tasteless. At that point I spewed it out of my mouth. Thus it is with the things Satan offers. They offer temporary pleasure at the expense of permanent pain. Sweet now but Low later; Sweet for the moment but Low for eternity. It is far better to endure the seeming discomfort of conforming to the will of God than enjoy the temporary delights of the devils "sweet and low".

Splenda: The final artificial sweetener of the adversary that I will deal with is splenda or in this analogy... splendor. The word splendor means grandeur; glorious in appearance. Is this not the very thing that Paul suggested in 2 Corinthians 11:14:

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Satan knows how to LOOK right without BEING right. He knows how light looks and how to even APPEAR as glorious as light... artificially speaking. Anyone who settles for the hypocrisy of only "looking the part" without paying the price of true godly transformation has certainly fallen for the devils "splenda". Listen to what the very next verse says:

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Men have been fooled by the millions but God can not be fooled nor anyone walking in the spirit of God who guides us into all truth (John 16:13). Like a rose displaying the beauty of its red smooth petals and leaves hiding its thorns behind them. It compels you to admire its beauty to the point of reaching out to grab it. Then...a pretty and painful prick... the price of being drawn by splendor and victimized by pain. Everything glorious does not have true Glory. Never compromise the true splendor and glory of Christ (John 1:14) for artificial glory and "splenda" of the enemy. Never settle for the look of right without paying for the character of right...that's artificial.

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