

Calling the Bluff

(6 Bad Bets in the Game of Life)

Whatever I Want!

August 29, 2010

Intro: (Drama: Grey Matter)

If You Want to Know if Someone's Playing a Bad Bet or a Sure Bet, You Have to Call Their Bluff So You Can See the Cards in Their Hand:

1. Calling the Bluff of Narcissism & Hedonism:

2 Timothy 3:1-7:

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. **People will be lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, **boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,** ⁴ **treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, **always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.**

A. The Cards in the Hand of Narcissism:

Narcissism = An excessive pre-occupation with self which views people as mere extensions of one's life resulting in a lack of empathy for others and a disturbing ability to 're-write history', manipulate people, and distort conversations.

Proverbs 26:12, 24-26:

Do you see a man **wise in his own eyes**? There is more hope for a fool than for him... A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit. Though his speech is charming, do not believe him, for **seven abominations fill his heart**. His malice may be concealed by deception, but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.

Proverbs 6:16-19:

There are **six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension** among brothers.

- **Un-teachable, Untrustworthy, & Undependable**

B. The Cards in the Hand of Hedonism:

Hedonism = The belief that pleasure is the goal of life and the only good thing life offers; combined with a willingness to reject any boundaries seen as hindrances to personal desires.

Proverbs 6:25-27, 32-35:

Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for **the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread**, and the **adulteress preys upon your very life**. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?... But a man who commits adultery **lacks judgment**; whoever does so **destroys himself**. Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away; for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse the bribe, however great it is.

Proverbs 21:17

He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

Proverbs 25:28

Like a **city whose walls are broken down** is **a man who lacks self-control**.

- **Emotional Poverty & Personal Destruction**

2. Playing the Winning Hand of God:

Matthew 16:24-26:

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me**.²⁵ For **whoever wants to save his life will lose it**, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. **What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?** Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Ephesians 4:17-24:

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. **Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more**. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**.