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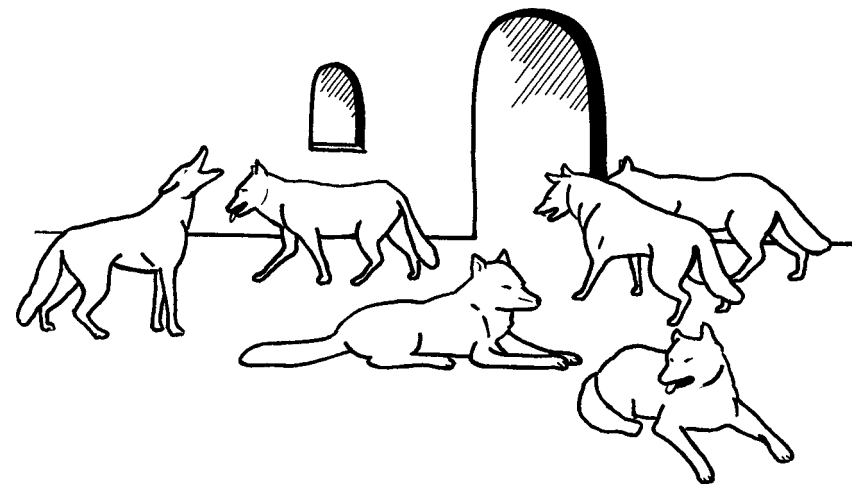
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Wolves



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

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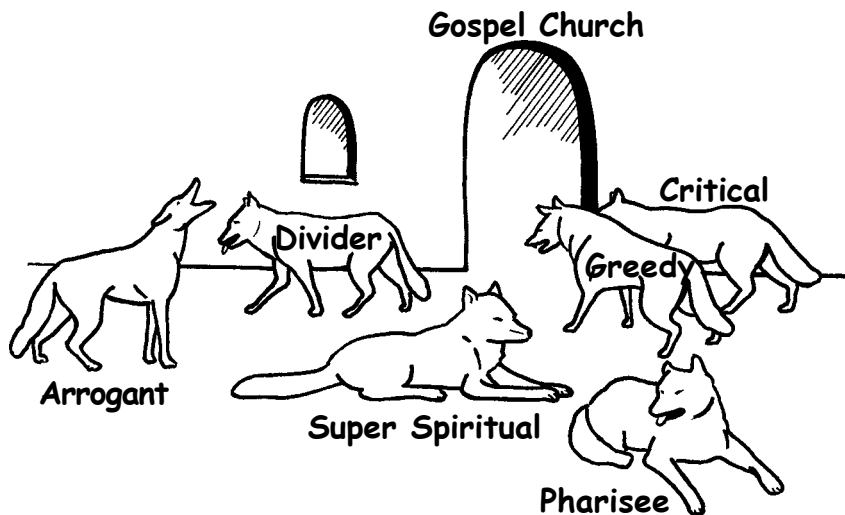
Train & Multiply™



T&M™

Ask the Lord for wisdom, so as to discern the wolves which Satan sends to attack your flock.

What is a wolf? Both Jesus and the apostle Paul called false shepherds “wolves.” A wolf is a person who introduces false teaching, causes division or lures people (“sheep”) away from their church. They steal sheep. Demons try to bring false doctrines and practices into churches and use these wolves to do it. (Matthew 7:15, 1 Timothy 4:1) Wolves come from both within the church and without. (Acts 20:28-30)



PRACTICAL WORK

- Teach your flock from Acts 20:28-31, warning them about the different kinds of wolves. If you yourself have been a wolf, repent now, ask forgiveness of those you have offended, and restore any ill-gotten money or goods.
- Teach believers to love one another. If there are some who do not get on well with each other, help them to be reconciled. Someone harboring resentment against another in his heart should pray, preferably with fasting, until the Spirit of God cleanses him. (Matthew 5:23-24)
- Assure each repentant believer that their forgiveness is complete and eternal in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Colossians 2:9-10, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 5:13)
- If anyone comes with a new doctrine, which contradicts what you have learned in the Bible, face them with this immediately. If they persist in behaving as wolves, keep away from them. (Romans 16:17) We are to warn a person who causes division, and if they persist, to refuse fellowship. (Titus 3:10-11) If a congregation cannot handle a wolf alone, it should call in leaders from other churches to investigate and deal with it. (Acts 15)

5. The wolf wants his own way. He seems religious. He comes disguised as a sheep. He talks like an angel of light, to deceive those who have trusted in Jesus. When a wolf seeks to divide, we must:

- ☐ keep away from him.
- ☐ criticize him.

6. We pay no heed to what a wolf says; we ignore him. A wolf sometimes says what is true, but practices:

- ☐ union.
- ☐ division.

7. The Pharisee divides believers with:

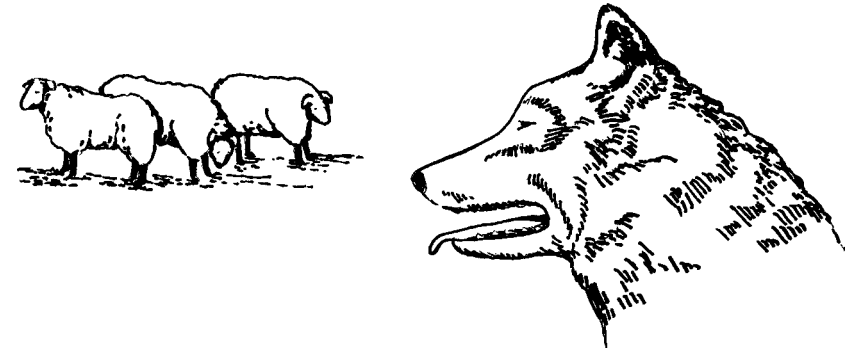
- ☐ his love.
- ☐ his laws.

8. As well as imposing rules, many wolves weaken churches through their greed. These work mainly:

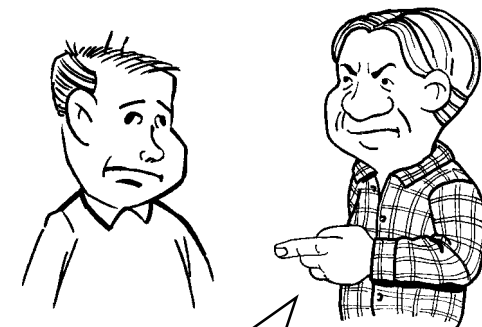
- ☐ for love.
- ☐ to get rich.

THE DIVIDER

The divider is a dangerous wolf. He does not respect the Word of God, (Matthew 24:11, 24), a church's leaders, nor unity in the Lord.

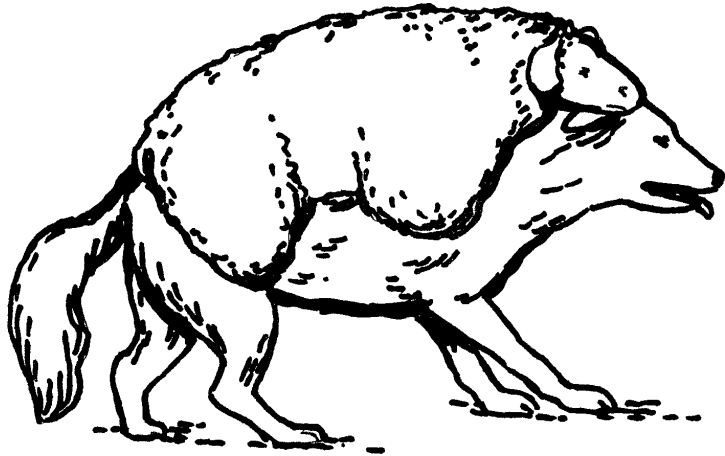


He does not evangelize, but rather wins over weaker members, and separates them from the flock. (Romans 15:20-21, 2 Corinthians 10:15-18, Galatians 1:6-8)



Look at that pastor's congregation. He has more members than you. I'll help you.

This wolf disguises himself as a sheep. (Matthew 7:15) He deceives, pretending to preach the Gospel at the same time as he stirs up division.



“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”

(2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

The divider teaches from the Bible, but only to:

- ☐ edify us.
- ☐ deceive us.

SUMMARY TEST

“If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.”

(2 John 9-10)

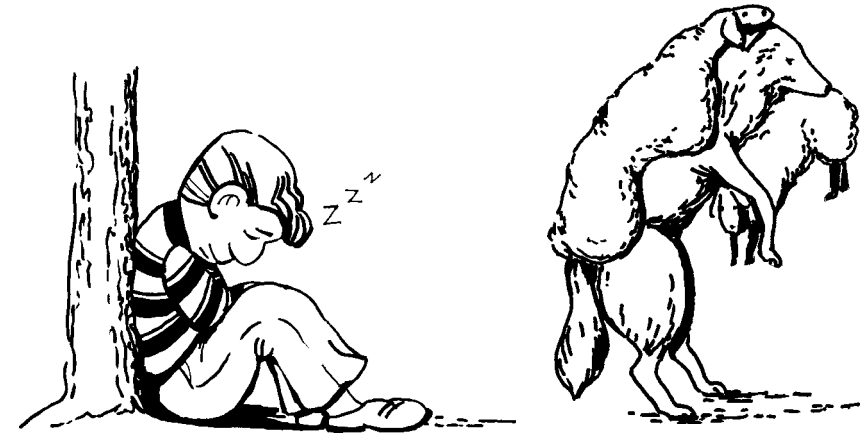
1. The arrogant wolf:
 - ☐ is humble.
 - ☐ thinks he knows everything.
2. The divider is conceited. He likes:
 - ☐ criticizing elders and pastors.
 - ☐ encouraging the believers to be reconciled.
3. Many sheep-stealers are critical; they get among the flock:
 - ☐ with the church’s authorization.
 - ☐ without permission.
4. The wolf, like Satan, uses the Bible:
 - ☐ to win our trust, and get his own way.
 - ☐ to build up a united church.

The Apostle Paul said:

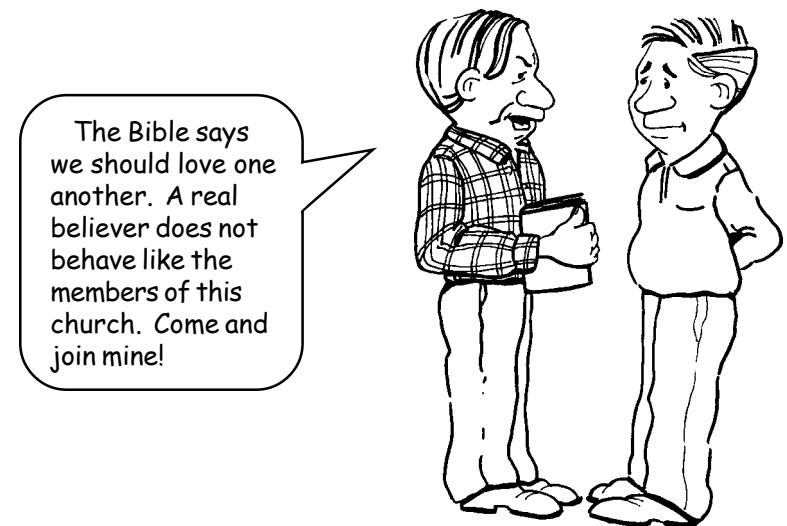
“I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words that the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

(Acts 20:33-35)

Have you learned to be content with what you have?



The dividing wolf gets in when the pastors are not alert. He talks like a sheep, as though he were a loving fellow-believer. Remember that Satan himself used the Word of God to try to deceive the Lord Jesus. (Matthew 4:5-6)

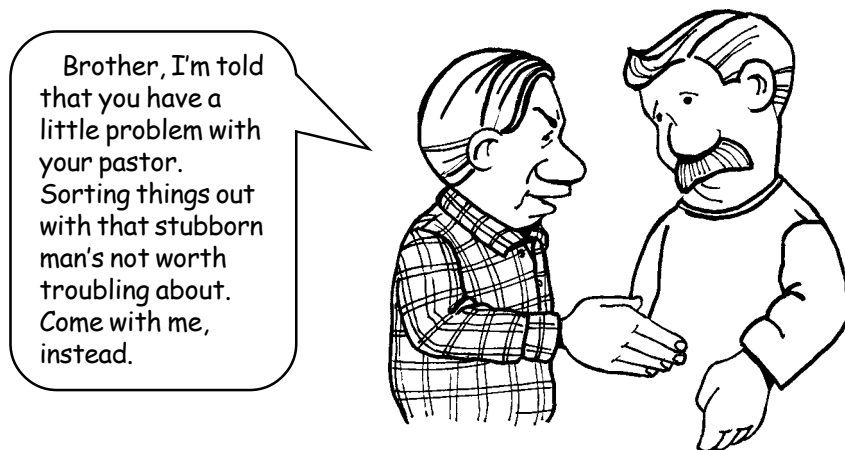


The thief does not enter the fold through the proper way, Jesus, the gate; (John 10:7-10), so he does not come with the Lord's permission. Although he talks of the Bible, what he wants is:

- ☐ to steal sheep.
- ☐ to help the sheep.

"I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears."

(Acts 20:29-31)



Paul writes:

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

(Philippians 4:11-13)

The sincere elder does not *"pursue dishonest gain."* (Titus 1:7) He is *"not a lover of money."* (1 Timothy 3:3) The sincere deacon does not *"pursue dishonest gain."* (1 Timothy 3:8) More than one hundred Bible passages warn us about the dangers of greed!

Why does God take greed so seriously? Write your opinion:

Some other wolves do not allow the church to have a budget. Other greedy wolves grab everything that their congregation gives. They give no account of what they spend. All administration of church funds must be open, clear, honest and straight-forward, for the glory of God.

A congregation does not give or tithe responsibly, when it does not know how the money is spent.

The congregation or church leaders should authorize the treasurer to pay expenses approved in the budget.

The treasurer gives a financial report monthly to the congregation or council. If the people support their leaders as 1 Timothy 5:17-18 teaches, there will be no problem.

Other avaricious wolves take advantage of believers, and of the trust of brothers in Christ, to ask for loans. They do not return the money. When they have got all they can in one congregation, they seek another. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 commands: *“If a man will not work, he shall not eat”* And *“each of you must put off falsehood.”* (Ephesians 4:25) Avarice leads to lies and cheating.



A wise pastor knows and protects his church members. Otherwise, wolves will destroy the flock.

“I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.”

(Romans 16:17)

THE PHARISEE WOLF

There is another wolf we can call the PHARISEE: he goes sniffing and snooping about, looking for something to criticize.

The legalistic Pharisee imposes his own rules. He increases feelings of guilt and fear. He makes weaker believers doubt their complete forgiveness in Christ, so that they will do what the wolf demands.



Sometimes this wolf insists that we obey certain human traditions, or ritual laws from the Old Testament. Keeping these laws makes us “legalistic.” If one tries to keep the old law, for salvation, it is necessary to keep all of it, and as this is impossible, the result is to come under a curse. (Galatians 3:10) We are under the New Testament’s law of love. (Matthew 22:37-40)

This wolf enjoys making and enforcing rules so he can push people into doing what he says. He sneers at the freedom we have in Christ.

These greedy wolves are not concerned about evangelizing in new areas. They keep all the money for their own church, where they can control its use.

When a pastor seeks money wherever he can get it (from other churches or other countries), his own congregation neglects its duty of tithing and maintaining their own pastor. The congregation stagnates spiritually.

Some greedy wolves request donations by radio, mail or television, but they do not use them for Christ’s work, but rather, to get rich. They deceive God’s people. We give to God as an act of worship, normally through our church. We do not give offerings through the post to every preacher who weeps about some “very urgent need.”

Some greedy wolves receive large offerings in their campaigns. They exaggerate needs, and urge more giving than is necessary. There is no need to exaggerate, lie, or make demands, if the campaign is God’s. Through prayer and faith, God will provide what is needful.

Greedy wolves also penetrate evangelical churches. They often seek to get rich through religion. Satan tempts some pastors to avarice:

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful proud, abusive...”

(2 Timothy 3:1-2)

Lovers of money! How sad to fall in love with money! To use the church, Jesus’ holy body, our King’s bride to gain money, is a repugnant use of ministry!

Some avaricious Christian workers demand higher incomes from their organizations or churches, as though they were trade unionists.

According to Hebrews 13:5, how should we live?

- ☐ Through loud or subtle complaints.
- ☐ By faith.

Sometimes we invent new rules that are not in the Bible. But if these, however well intentioned, impede the life and growth of the local church, they should be rejected. Whoever lives by the Spirit fulfils all the Lord’s commands, because he loves God and his neighbor:

“Love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Romans 13:10)

The things that these wolves consider important, such as dietary laws, special days etc. have no such importance. (Romans 14:1-6) *“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”*

(Romans 14:17)

THE ARROGANT WOLF

This wolf trusts in his own great wisdom:

“Knowledge puffs up.”

(1 Corinthians 8:1)



No one gets to know God through worldly wisdom.

(1 Corinthians 1:19-23) Some “wise men” deny Bible miracles.

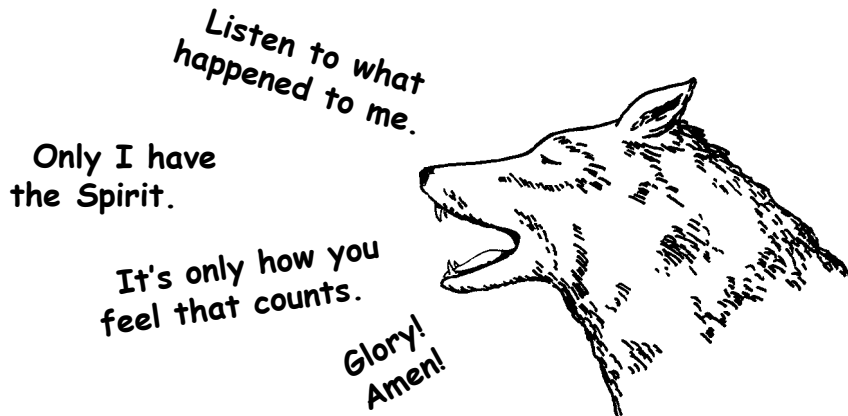
Other “wise men” add their own doctrines and practices.

THE HOWLER

Another noisy wolf is the howler. He is known for his big mouth, which is always open, talking about himself. He bases his faith on his own experience. He only seeks emotional experiences. In his prayers, he shouts loud, to attract attention. (Matthew 6:5) He causes confusion during the worship service, and has no self-control.

“The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

(1 Corinthians 14:32, 33, 40)



“Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you, and never will I forsake you.’”

(Hebrews 13:5)

Greedy wolves have made a business of soul winning, throughout the history of the church.

Some ministers of the ancient Roman church began to charge for baptisms, masses, home visits and funerals. The church in the Middle Ages became very rich.

Many who resisted wrong doctrine were excommunicated, tortured and killed. The “Holy Inquisition” of the Roman church tortured and killed thousands of believers in many countries.

Other greedy wolves in the Middle Ages became rich through the Crusades against the Muslims. They armed themselves in the name of Christ, and looted the lands through which they passed.

THE GREEDY WOLF

The greedy wolf preaches for material gain. He does not work for the love of Christ, but for what he can get. He follows the Lord seeking bread and fish, instead of carrying his cross:

“Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and his mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

(Luke 14:25-27)



THE SUPER-SPIRITUAL WOLF

The super-spiritual wolf does not glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, but himself. He boasts of having direct contact with God. He insists on us doing strange things. He lets people know that he fasts long and prays loudly. He demands miraculous signs to prove that God is working, which Jesus forbade in Matthew 16:4. Some insist that their own church is the only true church.

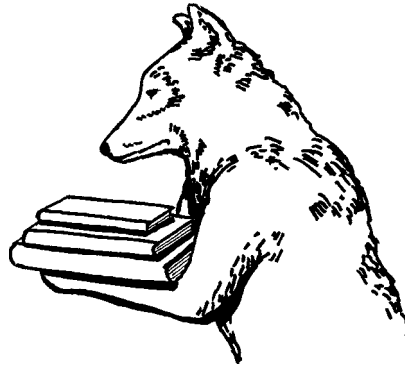
Jesus warns, *“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

(Matthew 7:22-23)



THE MODERN IDOLATER WOLF

Modern idolaters make their own gods with a typewriter. They invent their own doctrines.



For example Jehovah's Witnesses have two "real" gods. They say that Christ is "a god" as well as Jehovah. These wolves are not true witnesses to the Lord, because in Isaiah 43:10, Jehovah says that His witnesses will testify that He is one, (not two, as the Jehovah's Witnesses say, when they speak of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word).

The Mormon church also has many gods. They say that each Mormon will be exalted until he becomes a god. Some New Age devotees assert that everyone is a god, or that God and nature are the same thing.

THE SEER WOLF

The seer wolf is superstitious. He guesses the future using the stars, witchcraft, and dealing with spirits, supposedly of the dead. Deuteronomy 18:10-14 expressly forbids this.



THE HEARTBREAKER WOLF

Sadly, there are leaders who give way to their carnal instincts, when counseling women. They make them emotionally dependent. They take advantage of them to have illicit, unholy relationships with them, under the name of "showing the love of the Lord", or "emotional therapy." A sincere pastor prays for self control, and is very alert to avoid falling under Satan's attacks. An ethical pastor has his wife or another lady present while counseling or visiting a woman.