

The Role of Evil in Ephesians 4:11-16

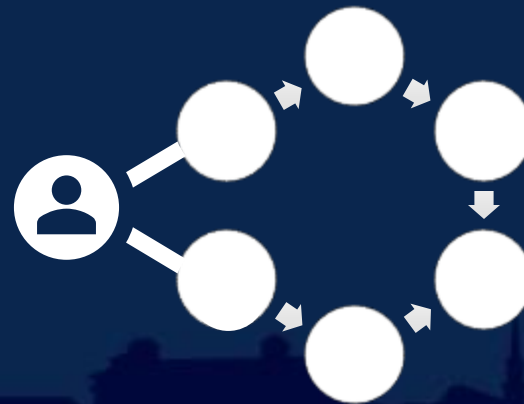
Through the Lens of Human Learning and the Framework of “Story” by Dr. Dan Allender

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Ephesians is written differently than other letters:

- Most Evangelical scholars agree Paul is the author
- “In Ephesus” is missing in some of the earliest manuscripts
- More generic nature of the letter
- Paul addresses the concept of Evil in Ephesians in a broader sense, helping us to see the *scope*
- Intent to pass letter through all the house churches in Ephesus
- Some believe the letter was intentionally written as a “circular letter” (Roberts)



Dimensions of False Teaching Promulgated by Evil

“So that we may no longer be children,
tossed to and fro by the waves and carried
about by **every wind of doctrine**,
by human cunning,
by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”

(Eph 4:14 ESV with bold for emphasis)



Figure 1. An image for the ship metaphor. (Photograph by Jean-Pierre Brungs, Sept 27, 2015, https://unsplash.com/photos/d2Q4klk8vBU?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText)





Figure 2. Image to express experience. (Photograph by Aditya Chinchure, December 29th 2017, https://unsplash.com/photos/ZhQCZjr9fHo?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText)

NO =
Experience is our God



Figure 3. Image to express learning through experience. (Photograph by Ben Wilkins, February 18th 2019, https://unsplash.com/photos/WH2UgbxLBs4?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText)

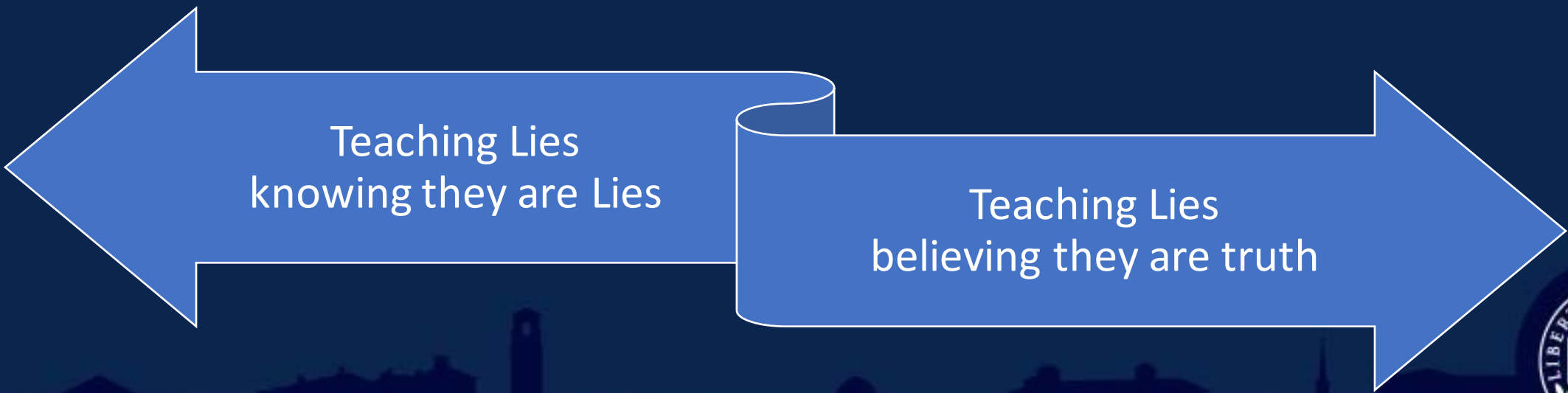
YES =
God created us to learn in the
context of experience



False Learning & False Teaching

There are two types of false teachers

- 1) The wolf in sheep's clothing: sells a lie that he knows is a lie, deeply evil and wicked
- 2) The person who learned something false, believes it is true and teaches out of this conviction

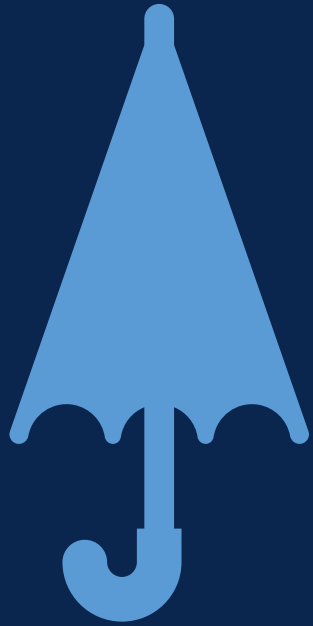


Teaching Lies
knowing they are Lies

Teaching Lies
believing they are truth



Various Dimensions of False Theology



It is time to open
the “umbrella” on
the concept of
false theology.



“Every Wind of Doctrine” - Explicit False Teaching

Greek	Carried about, <i>peripheromenoi</i> = swung around by shifting winds (Stott)
Dimensions	“Every Wind” False Teaching- Explicit
Learner Dynamics	Learning from explicit teaching/preaching/scholarship an incorrect view/false theology Being cognitively persuaded in a teaching environment/religious environment
Examples	Early Church: (Walton) Gnosticism, Ebionism, Montanism, Manichaeism, Novatianism Today: Syncretism, Prosperity Gospel
Biblical Antidote:	Eph 4:23 (be renewed in the Spirit of your minds) John 8:32 (know the truth, truth will set you free) John 17:17 (sanctify in truth, the Word) Eph 4: 15-16 (truth in love, growth in the body)



“Every Wind of Doctrine” - Subtle False Teaching

Greek	Carried about, <i>peripheromenoi</i> = swung around by shifting winds (Stott)
Dimensions	“Every Wind” False Teaching- engrained in experience
Learner Dynamics	-When experiencing the world solidifies an internal understanding or intellectual belief that is a lie= false theology -The experience itself is not false: the conclusions are.
Examples	-The role of Attachment with parents as correlating with relationship with God and view of God (Thompson) -Family dynamic colluding understanding of God’s biblical family
Biblical Antidote:	Christ Engagement & Communal Engagement John 8:32 , 1 Thess 2:11 , 1 Timothy 5:1



“Human Cunning”

Greek	<i>Kybia</i> means ‘dice playing’ association of trickery (Stott)
Dimensions	Human Cunning
Learner Dynamics	Being sinned against/experiencing an evil interaction with another human that corresponds to a lie
Examples (Allender Center)	“Curses” - in story work these oppose blessing -Being manipulated by another human being -Intentional harm/abuse from another human being "Loyalty Structures" - an unhealthy loyalty complex turns to idolatry- binds us to that Person
Biblical Antidote:	Eph 5:11-13 (expose works of darkness) Eph 4:25 (put away falsehood, speak truth with neighbor) Eph 4:15-16 (truth in love, growth in the body)



“Craftiness in Deceitful Schemes”

Greek	“cunning” <i>serpent</i> “deceit” recalls the creation “schemes” of the devil (Mbennah)
Dimensions	Craftiness and Deceitful Schemes
Learner Dynamics	Impact of the enemy from both our own sin nature and from a greater standpoint (rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, spiritual forces of evil) in our personal lives
Examples (Allender Center)	"Agreements" - agreeing with a lie from the enemy "Vows" - promising to live in coherence with the lie from the enemy "Loyalty Structures" - an unhealthy loyalty complex turns to idolatry also binds us to the enemy
Biblical Antidote:	Eph 1:21 (Christ) Eph 4:15 (speaking the truth in love) Eph 4:27 (give no opportunity to the devil) Eph 6:12 (let no one deceive you with empty words, do not partner with evil) Eph 4:15-16 (truth in love, growth in the body)



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Greek	<i>peripheromenoi</i> means carried about, swung around by shifting winds (Stott)		<i>Kybia</i> means dice playing association of trickery (Stott)	“ cunning ” <i>serpent</i> . Additionally, the “ deceit ” recalls the creation “ schemes ” <i>of the devil</i> . (Mbennah)
Dimensions	“Every Wind” False Teaching-Explicit	“Every Wind” False Teaching- engrained in experience The experience itself is not false, the conclusion is.	Human Cunning	Craftiness and Deceitful Schemes
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Examples (Allender Center)	Early Church: (Walton) Gnosticism Ebionism Montanism Manichaeism Novatianism Today: Syncretism Prosperity Gospel	The role of Attachment with parents as correlating with relationship with God and view of God (Thompson) Family dynamic colluding understanding of God’s biblical family	“ Curses ” - in story work these oppose blessing -Being manipulated by another human being -Intentional harm/abuse from another human being “ Loyalty Structures ”- an unhealthy loyalty complex turns to idolatry- binds us to that person	“ Agreements ” - agreeing with a lie from the enemy “ Vows ” -promising to live in coherence with the lie from the enemy ” Loyalty Structures ”- an unhealthy loyalty complex turns to idolatry- binds us to enemy
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