

“for they
loved the
praise of
men more
than the
praise of
God”

John 12:43



Flattery:
The sin of
keeping
oneself
and others
in
darkness!



1. Flattery is... ⁽¹⁾

- By definition, to praise or compliment insincerely, effusively or excessively
- A practice of the wicked: “They flatter with their tongue”

Psalm 5:9



1. Flattery is... (2)

- The sign of false prophets: “For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace”

Jeremiah 8:11



1. Flattery is... (3)

- The desire of those with itching ears!: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” 2 Timothy 4:3-4

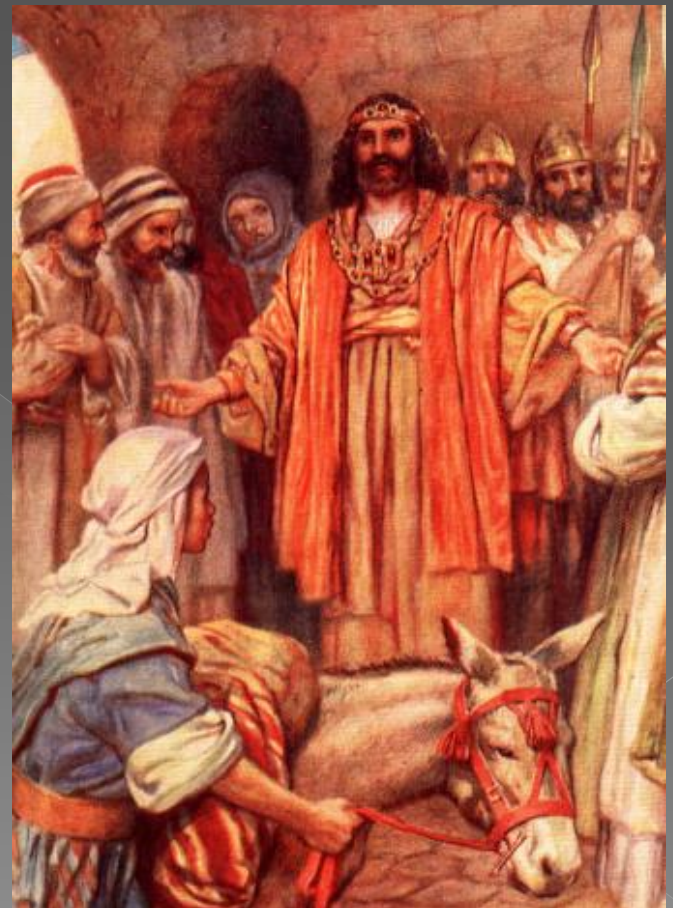


1. Flattery is... (4)

- The manipulation of others for the flatterer's own advantage.

The story of Absalom in 2 Samuel 15 is a clear example: "So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel"

2 Samuel 15:6



1. Flattery is... (5)

- Spreading a net for my neighbor and my own feet:
“A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet” **Proverbs 29:5**
- A flatterer kills his own soul for he will not accept the truth of God about the seriousness of his sins



2. Flattery is not... (1)

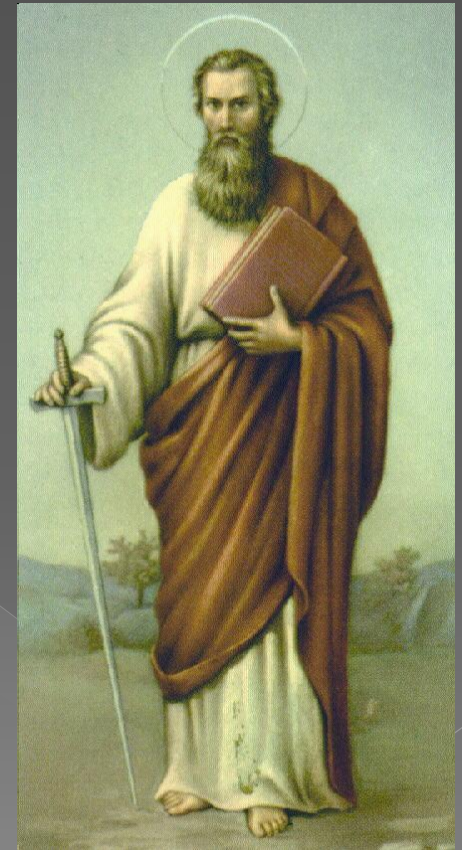
- ◉ The way to gain others. The Lord won the Samaritan woman by complimenting her honesty, not flattering her immorality. “Jesus said to her, ‘You have well said, “I have no husband”’” John 4:17



2. Flattery is not... (2)

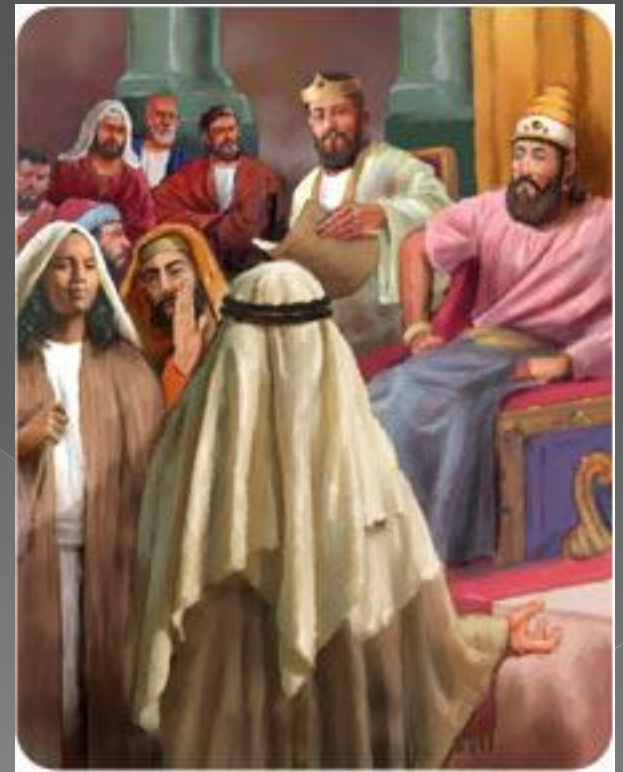
- ◉ The practice of God's servants:
“But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. For neither at any time did we use flattering words”

1 Thessalonians 2:4-5



3. Flattery is severely punished ⁽¹⁾

- Consider the end of those who believed flatterers:
 - King Ahab (1 Kings 22)
 - King Herod (Acts 12): “Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died” **Acts 12:23**



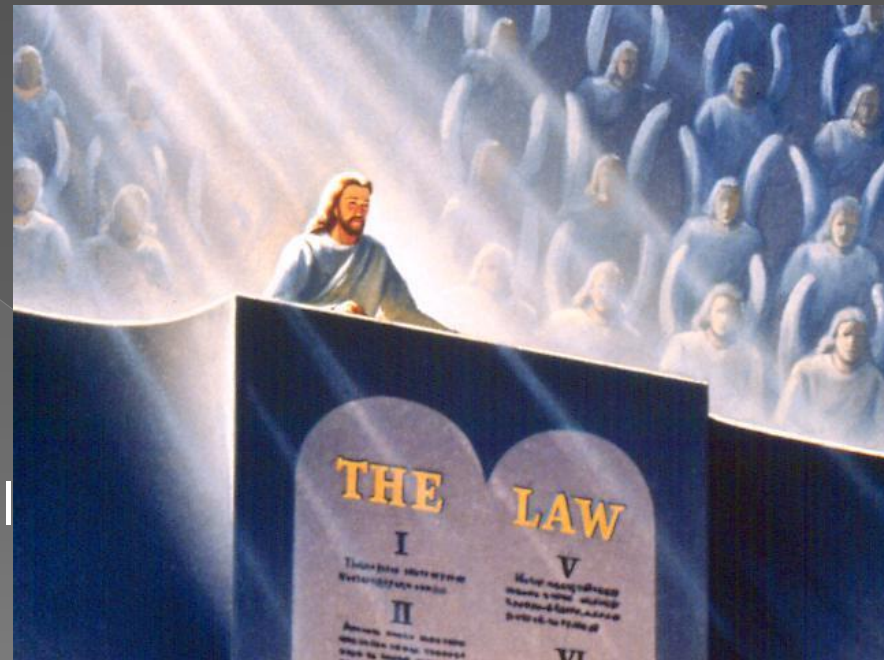
3. Flattery is severely punished ⁽²⁾

- “The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, And the tongue that speaks proud things”

Psalm 12:3

- “But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie”

Revelation 22:15



4. How should we suspect flattery?

- ◉ When what is said is an exaggeration of the truth or a straight falsehood
- ◉ When the one speaking has a track record of dishonesty
- ◉ When there is a favor tied to the compliment
- ◉ When words like 'the best', 'the greatest', 'the smartest' are joined one to another



5. The other extreme is also a sin

- ◉ The truth should be spoken in love and meekness. To speak in a “brutally honest” way is not a virtue .
- ◉ We should not speak too critically of ourselves or others in order to avoid flattery.

