



## The Wolf in Grandma's Bonnet

John 8:31-47

### LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Great truths in old fairy tales

The deceptive nature of malevolence

Evil deceives in order to devour

### QUESTION OF THE DAY

How do we practically name and expose evil in a day in which relativism reigns and almost anything in question can be justified by someone?

One: how can we pierce the disguise of evil and see it clearly

Two: how do we negotiate the tensions of a relativistic culture?

Today we focus on the first issue

### JESUS' CHARACTERIZATION OF EVIL IN JOHN 8

Three characteristics of the species of evil (sin, the devil)

It is rooted in falsehood (**8:44**), it enslaves (**8:34**), it destroys life (**8:44**)

Enslavement and death are consequences that follow the lie

### EVIL AS FALSEHOOD

The essence/foundation of evil is that of the lie: **8:32,44**

All that God created was good: **Genesis 1:31**

Evil does not have ontological independent existence, but is bent good

The only way you misuse good is by lying about it

## FOLLOWING THE LIE: ENSLAVEMENT

Enslavement means to increasingly lose the ability, strength, will to do otherwise

Reality works together like a complex engine

Detach the ignition switch the car can't move

Good behaviors and choices empower good behavior and choices

Bad behavior and choices inhibit good behavior and choices

## FOLLOWING THE LIE: DEATH

Death means to separate, unwind what belongs together

Separate from the source means death

Think of the leaf or the diver underwater

Multiple types of death: physical, emotional, relational, psychological, spiritual

## ENSLAVEMENT AND DEATH AS PROGRESSIVE

Sin and evil work in a progressive way

The longer the repetition, the deeper the roots, the higher the wall

All becoming is moving upward or downward on an escalator

From doing evil to becoming evil: **8:44**

The nature of the devil: **no** truth in him, he speaks out of his character

Gnashing of teeth in hell

## HEARTBREAKING PICTURES: Arley's Battle with Anorexia

Link to the full video: ***In My Mind: Anorexia***: <https://youtu.be/005dJ9ODjx8>

## BECOMING WOLF-SPOTTERS

Because evil is rooted in lie, its invitations come disguised

The devil approaches as an angel of light: **2 Cor 11:13-15**

Test the spirits: **1 John 4:1**

### **Become saturated in the good**

Detection of counterfeits begins with expertise in real thing

Holy Spirit living us reacting to evil

Learning to trust "instincts and senses"

Holy Scriptures marinating in mind and memory: **Ezekiel 3:3**

Dwelling on "the glory and the honor of the nations": **Revelation 20:26**

Think on all that is worthy of praise: **Philippians 4:8**