



New Testament Expositor

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Protecting Our Daughters

It was a typical counseling session. We discussed the issues in her life that she had been processing and the progress and personal growth she was making. Near the end of the session, she received a text. She glanced at her phone, and her face seemed to express a sort of fearful concern. I asked her, "Everything OK?" In a moment this thoughtful, confident, conscientious teenage girl began to panic and became frantic. I asked again, "What's wrong?" She proceeded to tell me that she had forgotten to tell her new boyfriend that she had a session at the counseling center. She told me that her boyfriend had added her to his location-sharing app on his phone along with other friends and family. Tears of panic began to stream down her face as she attempted to text an explanation that would satisfy his displeasure. We resumed the session only to be interrupted multiple times by the "ping" of his texts that demanded more information. Since it was near the end of the session she asked if we could stop there and resume our work during the next scheduled session. At the beginning of the next session, we discussed potential red flags in relationships. She did a lot of hard work and has made a lot of progress, and he no longer has access to the GPS location of her phone.

In the past few years, I have witnessed several scenarios just like this one. Technology advancements, social influences, and a natural desire to be liked exacerbate already complicated and difficult relationship dynamics, as young people are beginning to gain independence and develop relationships with those outside of the home, especially relationships with the opposite sex (Genesis 2:18, 24-25). Teenagers seek to forge their own path toward independence, while parents try to maintain appropriate guidance. However, the issues parents face now in this technologically advanced, social media-frenzied society are increasingly difficult to prepare for and navigate (Proverbs 22:6).

Here are a few considerations, based on issues that seem to be trending currently, to help parents recognize potential problems in order to help their daughters set and maintain protective boundaries.

Your daughter's boyfriend should not be demanding nor requiring access to the location indicator on her phone (like Life 360). He should not be tracking her at all.

Your daughter's boyfriend does not need to be at all her events, practices, family outings, social gatherings, etc. And she absolutely should not need to nor feel pressured to forfeit attending these outings herself simply because her boyfriend is unable to be present. Your daughter has a life outside of her boyfriend. She also needs time with her friends and even just time to herself where she does not feel smothered by a boyfriend, parents, school peers, etc. Everyone needs time to themselves, and your daughter is no exception. She needs time to reflect and discover. Parents need to be able to help their daughters protect healthy boundaries.

Parents need to be aware of other indicators that may signal their daughter may be in a controlling relationship with a

boyfriend or someone else.

Are there any subtle or drastic changes in her behavior? For example, did she suddenly stop wearing makeup or stop taking care of herself. Did her style of clothing change to only extremely baggy clothes. Does she get nervous about not being able to call her boyfriend back or not being home exactly when she told him she would be home? Does your daughter become anxious or nervous when she needs to cancel plans or a date with her boyfriend due to unforeseen circumstances?

If you overhear your daughter talking to her boyfriend, be mindful of dialogue that sounds like he is always painting himself as a victim. Statements such as "your parents are always against me" or "you never listen to what I say" or "you never understand what I am saying/feeling" are likely manipulative. [If you are concerned that listening to a public conversation is an invasion of privacy, it is not. It is a public conversation, and you are her parent (Ecclesiastes 9:17; Luke 12:3). Your experience counts, as the Bible says the older are to teach the younger and you can help your child see the potential for an unintentionally misaligned relationship (Titus 2:3-5).]

OUR DAUGHTERS ARE A "HERITAGE FROM THE LORD"

Does your daughter's boyfriend give her excessive gifts after they have had an argument? This is often an attempt to cover up or distract attention away from bad behavior (Psalm 12:3).

Young men who begin dating often do not intend to create a controlling or demeaning relationship. There are many factors that lead young men to become inappropriately possessive. Sometimes it comes from unknown fears, insecurities, immaturity, or even a simple lack of knowledge or experience in relationships. Which is why young people need guidance and advice from godly parents on these important relationship matters. With real life experience and the scriptures, parents are able to help both sons and daughters be better in their relationships (Proverbs 4:1; Proverbs 31:1).

Our daughters are a "heritage from the Lord" and when the "quiver is full" parents are reminded they have been blessed by God (Psalm 127:3-5). When we read Proverbs 22:6 the weighty responsibility of "training" may at times feel overwhelming, however the reward is great! One of our goals as parents is to help our daughters to develop self-reliance and independence (Psalms 144:12). This growth process can be frustrating at times and even scary as our daughters mature and begin to make more of their own decisions. But we cannot let this fear impede our God-given roles as their parents (2 Timothy 1:7).

Peter Ray Cole, LPC, Minister- Fairview Church of Christ, WV

Contradiction in the Bible

<https://www.bartehrman.com/contradictions-in-the-bible> (Written by Marko Marina, Ph.D.)

This is the second in a series of articles I am working on that gives attention to the link above that speaks to contradictions in the Bible. You'll see the "contradictions" asserted as present in the Bible fall far short of his desired hope. The author has no interest in truth, only in being blind so he can lead others blindly.

We will begin, like we did in the previous article, setting forth his definition of contradiction: "A contradiction is a statement or phrase whose parts contradict each other (a round square is a contradiction in terms)." In the analysis of the following contradictions you will see the author failed, miserably, to apply this definition. A contradiction is a logic textbook "... occurs when a proposition asserts both a statement and its negation simultaneously." The author did not come even remotely close to this.

Let us begin.

#6 – Levite Cities: 11 or 13?

"Another contradiction arises in the accounts of the Levite cities allocated to the descendants of Aaron. In 1 Chronicles 6:42-45, 11 cities are listed, but the text states there should be 13 in total. These cities include Hebron, Libna, Jattir, Eschtemoa, Holon, Debir, Aschan, Beth Shemesh, Geba, Alemet, and Anatot. The discrepancy between the stated total and the actual list creates an inconsistency within the text.

"The parallel account in Joshua 21:13-19 **provides a different list of 13 cities**, with variations and additions. Notably, this list includes Ajin, Jutta, Gibeon, and Almon, which are absent in Chronicles, while Aschan and Alemet do not appear in Joshua's account."

RT: Note how the "contradiction" is framed with the word "inconsistency," which begs the question, "Which is it? Is it a contradiction or an inconsistency?" Let us notice at the outset the writer of this piece does not even have the correct biblical text referenced. Something so simple that is *missed* is indicative of a larger problem. Perhaps it might be 2 Chronicles 6. Nope! What about 1 Chronicles 16? Nope! 2 Chronicles 16? Nope! What he intended to write, I presume, is 1 Chronicles 6:57-60. The difference is stark! If one handles a reference that is so easily checked but so badly missed, at what else did he fail? Let me tell you! He failed to show a contradiction. The text states 11 cities named, and their common lands, but 13 are identified as the total number, the other 2 cities not named. There is not even an iota of contradiction in this, not even an inconsistency! Looking at Joshua 21:13-19, the same 11 are named, plus 2 more. Contradiction, inconsistency? No, just poor handling of the information available.

#7 – The Prophetess Huldah and Her Family: A Case of Differing Names

"In 2 Kings 22:14, we read about Hilkiyah the priest consulting the prophetess Huldah, who is described **as the wife of Shallum, son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas**. However, the parallel account in 2 Chronicles 34:22 provides slightly different details about Huldah's family. Here, her husband is named Shallum, but his lineage includes **Tokhat and Hasra** instead of Tikvah and Harhas. Even in the original Hebrew, these differences in names are clear and distinct."

RT: The author asserted a contradiction, but he did not state what it is. A variation in name spelling is not a contra-

dition, but a variation! He does not use the word "contradiction" in this passage, only that it is another biblical reference "provides slightly different details" than what is read in 2 Kings 22.

A contradiction is not anything slight!

Biblical commentator Charles John Ellicott writes on the spelling variation: "Heb., *Tukahath*. Kings, 'Tikvah.' The LXX., Θεκουε, the Syriac, *Tekwa*, and the Vulg., *Thecuath*, show that Tikvah or Tikvath is right. (The final *h* and *th* of Chronicles arise from blending these two equivalent spellings.)"

Thus, this is only a spelling variation, nothing more. Another straw man that has no structure. Our author is a blind man desiring to lead others blindly.

#8 – The Passover Celebrations of Hezekiah and Josiah

"A notable example of the contradictions in the Bible arises when comparing the accounts of **Passover celebrations** under the reigns of King Hezekiah and King Josiah. In 2 Kings 23:21-23, it's stated that during Josiah's reign, the Passover was celebrated for the first time since the era of the judges, explicitly noting that no such observance occurred during the time of the kings of Israel and Judah. However, in 2 Chronicles 30, we find an account of **an earlier Passover** celebrated under King Hezekiah. This celebration is described as extraordinarily large and marked by great joy, involving participants from both Judah and remnants of the northern kingdom of Israel."

RT: So, what is the contradiction? Evidently, (1) the Passover was celebrated for the first time since the era of the Judges, "explicitly noting that no such observance occurred during the time of the kings of Israel and Judah." (2) 2 Chronicles 30 is earlier in time than 2 Kings 23:2, and there was a Passover observance.

The context of 2 Kings 23, when Josiah was Judah's king, Judah's national existence was near their end. Josiah, with new-found respect and reverence for the Book of the Law, began to cleanse all defilements from all things associated with the Temple. Previous to this new-found reverence, the people worked on memory and corrupted tradition, 2 Kings 23:3 giving evidence of a new approach. In 2 Kings 23:4-20, Josiah takes upon himself and the people to do a thorough cleansing.

Evidently, according to our author, this is a contraction to 2 Chronicles 30. The Passover in 2 Kings 23 is judged to be greater than the Passover mentioned in 2 Chronicles 30, which was earlier.

In 2 Chronicles 30, Hezekiah was Judah's king; the Passover was observed in the 2nd month (30:2) rather than the 1st month of the new year, as required in Exodus 12:2. In 2 Kings 23, the Passover was observed at the prescribed time and with much fervor. The difference between when the Passover was observed is a significant difference. In 2 Chronicles 30:5, not only is there a difference *when* the Passover was observed, but the prescribed manner in which it unfolded was also different.

The two accounts are varied, not contradictory; they are not consistent in application because of the difference in circumstances.

Here is a sentence made by the author of the asserted contradiction you might have missed: "In 2 Kings 23:21-23, it's stated that during Josiah's reign, the Passover was celebrated

for the first time since the era of the judges, explicitly noting that no such observance occurred during the time of the kings of Israel and Judah.”

This is a bald face lie! 2 Kings 23 says nothing of the sort. I looked at seven English translations, and not even one says or implies the Passover was celebrated “for the first time” since the era of the Judges. It speaks of the Passover being neglected, and what King Josiah did was reverse that neglect.

Thus, what our author considers a contradiction is nothing more than a manipulation of an English text he failed to read honestly! To add to this failure, he generates a lie, anticipating that most folk won’t investigate the matter, and even those that do, there won’t be enough of them to overcome his agreeable audience.

To declare the Bible has a contradiction is a serious charge, but the one who asserts a contradiction exists needs to give evidence of that contradiction. To this point in these two articles, Dr. Marko Marina has completely failed in his task.

Ron Thomas, Minister– Rio Grande church of Christ, OH

Satan’s Limited Power

The Bible never minimizes the reality of Satan’s activity in the life of the believer. Scripture speaks plainly - without apology - about the battle, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12, Legacy Standard Bible). The devil is not a myth, temptation is not imaginary, and spiritual warfare is not symbolic language meant to scare children. It is real. Yet the same Bible that warns us about Satan is equally clear that his power is limited, restrained, and always under the authority of Jesus Christ. He is active, but he is not autonomous. He is dangerous, but he is not decisive. And most importantly, he does not own those who belong to Christ.

CHRIST HAS PAID THE COST

From the beginning of Scripture to its final pages, ownership is a serious matter. Whose mark you bear determines whose you are (Matthew 22:15-22). Paul tells the church at Corinth, “Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). That language is deliberate. Redemption is not a vague spiritual feeling; it is a transaction. The blood of Christ was not symbolic currency. It was the payment that secured us forever.

This is why Christians do not belong to Satan - not because Satan lacks desire, but because Christ has paid the cost. Redemption is not a temporary arrangement that can be overturned by a bad week or a moment of weakness. When Jesus cried, “It is finished,” He was not saying the offer was made available. He was declaring that the work was completed, the price was paid in full, and heaven recorded the transfer of ownership. Paul makes this unmistakably clear in Colossians 1:13–14, where he writes, “Who rescued us from the authority of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son of

His love, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins”. The Christian is no longer under Satan’s authority.

This does not mean Satan is inactive. Peter warns Christians, “Be of sober spirit, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). A roaring lion is frightening, but it is not the same thing as a king on a throne. Satan operates within boundaries set by God; he cannot claim what he does not own. This is where many Christians struggle. They feel the pressure of temptation and assume defeat, or they experience spiritual warfare and conclude they are losing ground. But temptation is not possession, and struggle is not surrender. James explains how temptation works: “But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust” (James 1:14). Satan may present the bait, but he cannot force the choice. He may knock at the door of the mind, but he does not hold the deed to the soul.

Jesus Himself spoke directly to this truth. In John 10, He describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. He then makes this promise: “And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish—ever; and no one will snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28). If Satan could repossess a Christian, then Christ’s promise would be hollow. But Jesus does not exaggerate, He speaks with authority. What He holds, no enemy can steal.

The cross is where Satan’s power was decisively broken. Hebrews 2:14 declares, “Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” Rendered powerless does not mean Satan ceased to exist; it means his ultimate weapon was neutralized. Death no longer belongs to him, and fear no longer has final authority. Guilt no longer has legal standing over the redeemed. This is why Paul writes with such bold confidence in Romans 8 when he asks, “Who will bring a charge against God’s elect?” Then he answers it plainly: “God is the one who justifies” (Romans 8:33). Satan may accuse, but heaven will not hear the case. The Judge has already ruled, and the verdict stands - Christ died, Christ was raised, Christ intercedes. Ownership has been settled in the highest court.

This leads to a truth that must be stated carefully but clearly. While salvation is by grace, it is not without response. The cross did not merely make salvation possible; it made it secure for those who obey Christ. Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus “having been perfected, became the source of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him.” Obedience does not earn salvation, but it does reveal allegiance. Grace changes masters and redemption transfers ownership. A life that refuses Christ’s authority is not living in the reality of His purchase.

In the end, the comfort of the gospel is not that there is no battle, but that the outcome is not uncertain. Satan may roar, but Christ reigns. The devil may tempt, but Christ intercedes. Spiritual warfare is real, but ownership has already been settled. The believer is not possessed territory; he is purchased property. We belong to Christ. We were bought with a price, sealed by the Spirit, and secured by the blood. And the One who paid for us is faithful to keep what He has claimed until the day of redemption.

Justin Odom, Minister– Mt. Vernon church of Christ, Ill

The Need for Elders

The Church is facing a problem in which men who meet the qualifications of an elder do not aspire that good work thereby disqualifying themselves. In recent discussions with Douglas Pell the author of 'Set In Order' he informed me that this is a nationwide problem.

It was God's design that the local church has Elders appointed in every city (Church) Titus 1:5. Why do men not aspire to serve the King in what Paul described in 1 Tim 3:1 as a good work? Some of the reasons I have heard are 1) I don't want the responsibility or accountability for others, 2) I don't have enough time, 3) I don't want to neglect the needs of my immediate family, 3) I don't want to make the commitment that the work requires, 4) I don't want to subject myself to criticisms, etc.

In looking for understanding the reluctance to serve, I turn my thoughts to Peter the very proclaimer of the 'Great Confession' that Jesus was the Christ the Son of the Living God (Matt 16:16). Yet not long after this Peter was told by the Lord to 'Get behind Me, Satan!' as he rebuked the Lord's words that He soon would be killed and raised the third day. I believe some of the reasons that Peter made that rebuke was fear of losing his dear friend but added to that I suggest he feared that in the absence of the Lord, the Chief Shepherd, the responsibilities to keep the small band of disciples together would fall to himself and the other apostles. A responsibility that at the time he was not prepared to do. Peter demonstrated that as he denied the Lord three times that he was even associated with Jesus as He was put on trial.

The things that Peter lacked was made clear as Jesus restored Peter following His resurrection. Jesus asked Peter 3 questions; Do you love me, do you love me, do you love me? Each time Peter said Yes, I love you, to which Jesus directed 'Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, and feed my sheep (John 21:15-17). Jesus explained that loving Him involved taking care of His sheep. Being a follower of Jesus involves more than concern for self but being involved with the feeding, protection and concern for the Church. The very thing that the qualifications of being an elder involve (Titus 1:5-9 & 1 Tim 3:1-7)

Peter became an elder of the church (1 Peter 5:1) and he describes the work that a Shepherd does. **1 Peter 5:2-4 (NKJV)** ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Could the reason men have reservation to serve as elders is similar to Peter's struggles earlier in his own life? Peter later learned to deeply love Jesus and because of that love he desired to feed His lambs, tend to His sheep and feed His sheep in spite of the obstacles he would face.

For men that meet the qualifications of an elder, Jesus the Chief Shepherd asks, 'Do You Love Me?' If so, He implores you to be willing to feed His lambs, tend His sheep, feed His sheep as under shepherds.

Charles Hill- Elder, Lubeck church of Christ, WV

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March 2026

AREA EVENTS UPCOMING

March 1-6, Gospel Meeting with Rico Brown, Hillview church of Christ, 354 Middle Grave Creek Road Moundsville WV 26041

March 1-5, Gospel Meeting with Dick Bartrug, Fairview church of Christ 18 Darrah Lane, Fairview WV, 26570

March 7, Men's Inspiration Day, New Concord church of Christ, SR 83 @ 13333 Maple Ln. New Concord OH

March 7, Evangelism Workshop, Nathan Greene, Greenville church of Christ 4599 Children's Home Bradford Road, Greenville OH 45331

March 8-11 Gospel Meeting with Collin Matheny, Brookville church of Christ, 20 Hughey Road, Brookville PA

March 13-14 Youth Rally with Cameron Miller Northend church of Christ 1301 W Virginia Ave Parkersburg WV 26104

March 15-19 Gospel Meeting with Rick Tinch, Proctor church of Christ 250 Plum St. Proctor WV 26055

March 15-18 Gospel Meeting with Phil Sanders, Tipp City church of Christ 6460 Co HWY 150 Tipp City OH 45371

March 22-24, Gospel Meeting with WVSOP Speakers, Lewisburg church of Christ, 234 Maple Carraige Dr. Lewisburg WV, 24901

March 28, Youth Rally, New Concord church of Christ, SR 83 @ 13333 Maple Ln. New Concord OH

March 28 Ladies Day with Beth Condit, Rio Grande church of Christ 568 State Route 325 N Bidwell OH 45614

April 5-8 Gospel Meeting with Phil Sanders at the church of Christ at Rio Grande 568 State Route 325 N Bidwell OH 45614

April 11, WVCYC Spring Camp, 425 Youth Camp Dr. Pennsboro WV 26415

April 12-15, Gospel Meeting with Ron Thomas at the New Martinsville Church of Christ

April 12-16, Gospel Meeting with Dan Kessinger, East High Street church of Christ, Springfield OH 45505

April 12-16 Gospel Meeting with Hunter Melott Henderson church of Christ 209 Walnut St. Henderson WV 25106

April 26, Friends and Family Day , Greg KC Circle, Newcomerstown church of Christ 475 South Goodrich Street Newcomerstown OH 43832

May 2 Ladies Day with Melanie Weekly Harrisville church of Christ Ellenboro Town Building 100 School Street Ellenboro WV26346

May 29-31, Singing School with Andy Baker, Needmore church of Christ 2211 Needmore Rd. Dayton OH 45414

A Christian student at Ohio State University? Be sure to check out www.buckeyes4christ.com
A Christian student at Marshall University? Be sure to check out www.herd4christ.com