

The Ways of the Devil

Key Scripture 2 Nephi 28:3–30

Explanation Embedded in Nephi’s prophecy in 2 Nephi 28 are many phrases that describe the conduct of those who follow the devil. These sins, Nephi states, will pervade much of society in the latter days. Today they can be found well disguised as the philosophies and tendencies listed in this chart. Such conditions are symptomatic of society’s passive acceptance of “false and vain and foolish doctrines” (2 Nephi 28:9) that can lead people away from God. Knowing how the devil works and being able to see his tactics in operation in the ideologies of the world around us help prevent us from being taken captive by Satan, who leads people “carefully down to hell” (2 Nephi 28:21).

Source Based on the research and assistance of Miriam Horwinski, teaching assistant of John W. Welch, Book of Mormon 121H, Brigham Young University, fall 1997.

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2 Nephi 28:3–30

Tactic	Quotation	Verse
Misappropriation	“built up, and not unto the Lord”	3
Exclusivism	“I am the Lord’s”	3
Disputation	“contend one with another”	4
Sophism	“teach with their learning”	4
Cynicism	“deny the Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance”	4
Secularism	“deny the power of God”	5
Historicism	“the Redeemer hath done his work”	5
Empowerment	“he hath given his power unto men”	5
Skepticism	“believe it not”	6
Naturalism	“he is not a God of miracles”	6
Hedonism	“eat, drink, and be merry”	7
Fatalism	“tomorrow we die”	7
Cavalierism	“it shall be well with us”	7
Popularism	“many . . . shall say”	8
Appearances	“nevertheless, fear God”	8
Rationalizing	“justify in committing a little sin”	8
Criticism	“take the advantage of one because of his words”	8
Entrapment	“dig a pit for thy neighbor”	8
Legalism	“no harm in this”	8
Permissivism	“do all these things”	8
Leniency	“God will beat us with a few stripes”	8

Faddism	"many . . . shall teach after this manner"	9
Sensationalism	"false"	9
Egotism	"vain"	9
Imprudence	"foolish"	9
Arrogance	"puffed up in their hearts"	9
Self-Deception	"hide their counsels from the Lord"	9
Persecutionism	"blood of the saints shall cry"	10
Corruptionism	"they have become corrupted"	11
Oppressionism	"rob the poor"	13
Ostentationism	"because of their fine sanctuaries"	13
Narcissism	"their fine clothing"	13
Supremism	"persecute the meek and the poor in heart"	13
Elitism	"stiff necks and high heads"	13
Immorality	"abominations and whoredoms"	14
Distortionism	"pervert the right way of the Lord"	15
Trivialism	"turn aside the just for a thing of naught"	16
Meanness	"revile against that which is good"	16
Dismissivism	"say that it is of no worth"	16
Tantrumism	"rage in the hearts of the children"	20
Emotionalism	"anger against that which is good"	20
Mollifying Pacifism	"others will he pacify"	21
Materialism	"into carnal security"	21
Toadyism	"others he flattereth"	22
Relativism	"there is no hell"	22
Complacency	"wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion"	24
Secularism	"we need no more of the word of God"	29
Faithless Humanism	"putteth his trust in man"	30