

~FLATTERY (209)

- The act of pleasing by artful commendation, adulation, false, insincere, or excessive praise. It is **usually done to gratify the self-love or vanity of the one flattered and is therefore damaging to him.**
- Its motive is to gain favor or material benefits from another, to create a feeling of obligation toward the flatterer or to bring glory to him. Often it is designed to lead the other person into a trap.
- An able-bodied man that is **flattering** his companion is spreading out a mere net for his steps. (**Proverbs 29:5**)
- The use of **flattery** is not evidence of the wisdom from above, it is of this world, being characterized by selfishness, the making of **partial distinctions, and hypocrisy.**
- But the wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, **not making partial distinctions,** not hypocritical. (**James 3:17**)
- Insincerity, lying, adulating or glorifying men, and playing on the vanity of others **are all displeasing to God.**
- For the thing we boast of is this, to which our conscience bears witness, that with holiness and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but with God's undeserved kindness, we have conducted ourselves in the world, but more especially toward you. (**2 Corinthians 1:12**)
- Is it, in fact, men I am now trying to persuade or God? Or am I seeking to please men? If I were yet pleasing men, I would not be Christ's slave. (**Galatians 1:10**)
- Wherefore, now that you have put away falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, because we are members belonging to one another. (**Ephesians 4:25**)
- Do not be lying to one another. Strip off the old personality with its practices. (**Colossians 3:9**)
- But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are

disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This means the second death. (**Revelation 21:8**)

- A contrast of the Christian course with that of **flattery** is found in the apostles words at;
- For the exhortation we give does not arise from error or from uncleanness or with deceit. (**1 Thessalonians 2:3**)
- But, just as we have been proved by God as fit to be entrusted with the Good News, so we speak, as pleasing, not men, but God, who makes proof of our hearts. (**1 Thessalonians 2:4**)
- In fact, at no time have we turned up either with flattering speech, just as you know, or with a false front for covetousness, God is witness! (**1 Thessalonians 2:5**)
- **Neither have we been seeking glory from men**, no, either from you or from others, though we could be an expensive burden as apostles of Christ. (**1 Thessalonians 2:6**)
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- While the use of **flattery** may appear to be the gainful course, the Bible points out that, he that is reproofing a man will afterward find more favor than he will that is flattering with his tongue.
- He that is reproofing a man will afterward find more favor than he will that is **flattering** with his tongue. (**Proverbs 28:23**)
- When a person employs **flattery** to gain advantage over another person, it is the opposite of love. A hater may resort to **flattery** but will eventually have his deceptiveness roll back on him like a stone.

- With his lips the hater makes himself unrecognizable, but inside of him he puts deception. (**Proverbs 26:24**)
- Although he makes his **voice gracious**, do not believe in him, for there are seven detestable things in his heart. (**Proverbs 26:25**)
- Hatred is covered over by deceit. His badness will be uncovered in the congregation. (**Proverbs 26:26**)
- He that is excavating a pit will fall into the same, and he that is rolling away a stone, back to him it will return. (**Proverbs 26:27**)
- A tongue that is false hates the one crushed by it, and a flattering mouth causes an overthrow. (**Proverbs 26:28**)
- **Flattery** employs smooth talk in order to beguile its victim. The expressions **flattery**, smooth tongue, lip, or words.
- For in their mouth there is nothing trustworthy, their inward part is adversity indeed. Their throat is an opened burial place, a **smooth tongue** they use. (**Psalms 5:9**)
- Untruth they keep speaking one to the other, with a **smooth lip** they keep speaking even with a **double heart**. (**Psalms 12:2**)
- Yehowah will cut off all **smooth lips**, the tongue speaking great things. (**Psalms 12:3**)
- And those who are acting wickedly against the covenant, he will lead into apostasy by means of **smooth words**. But as regards the people who are knowing their God, they will prevail and act effectively. (**Daniel 11:32**)
- **Smoothness**
- She has misled him by the abundance of her persuasiveness. By the **smoothness** of her lips she seduces him. (**Proverbs 7:21**)
- But when they are made to stumble they will be helped with a little help, and many will certainly join themselves to them by means of **smoothness**. (**Daniel 11:34**) **Footnote**

- Double-faced, are translations of the **Hebrew** root word *cha-laq'*, or related words.
- For there will no more prove to be any valueless vision nor **double-faced divination** in the midst of the house of Israel. (**Ezekiel 12:24**) Footnote
- In every Bible instance cited, the motive of **the smooth talker** is bad.
- An example of the disastrous result of accepting **flattery** and the praise of men is Herod Agrippa I, who was **flatteringly** praised by the crowd as speaking with a god's voice. Because he accepted the **flattery** and did not give the glory to God, he was struck by God's angel and died.
- But on a set day Herod clothed himself with royal raiment and sat down upon the judgment seat and began giving them a public address. (**Acts of Apostles 12:21**)
- In turn the assembled people began shouting; A god's voice, and not a man's! (**Acts of Apostles 12:22**)
- Instantly the angel of Yehowah struck him, because he did not give the glory to God, and he became eaten up with worms and expired. (**Acts of Apostles 12:23**)
- On the other hand, Barnabas and Paul quickly prevented a crowd from deifying them.
- And the crowds, seeing what Paul had done, raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian tongue; The gods have become like human's and have come down to us! (**Acts of Apostles 14:11**)
- And they went calling Barnabas Zeus, but Paul Hermes, since he was the one taking the lead in speaking. (**Acts of Apostles 14:12**)
- And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was before the city, brought bulls and garlands to the gates and was desiring to offer sacrifices with the crowds. (**Acts of Apostles 14:13**)
- However, when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they ripped their outer garments and leaped out into the crowd, crying out (**Acts of Apostles 14:14**)

- **And saying; Men, why are you doing these things? We also are human's having the same infirmities as you do, and are declaring the Good News to you, for you to turn from these vain things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things in them. (Acts of Apostles 14:15)**
- **Also, when a Jewish ruler attempted application of the flattering title Good Teacher to Jesus Christ, Jesus instantly corrected him, saying; Why do you call me good? Nobody is good, except one, God.**
- **And a certain ruler questioned him, saying; Good Teacher, by doing what shall I inherit everlasting life? (Luke 18:18)**
- **Jesus said to him; Why do you call me good? Nobody is good, except one, God. (Luke 18:19)**
- **Let me not, please, show partiality to a man, and on an earthling man I shall not bestow a title. (Job 32:21)**
- **For I certainly do not know how I can bestow a title, easily my Maker would carry me away. (Job 32:22)**