

Defrauding

He's 19. He's known God since he was a small child, and desires to walk with Him. Altho the greater part of the time he succeeds.... he is only too aware of his failures. High ideals - and learning to live in this world. His pen name is "gjemme", a pen name meaning "hidden one."

Defrauding in Relationships

Have you seen the word in Mark 10:19 in the Bible: "Defraud"?

Mark 10:19

You know the commandments: Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.

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Defraud is a pretty strong word.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines defraud as:

to take away or hold back property, rights, etc. from by fraud; cheat

Syn. swindle, dupe, cheat; see cheat, deceive.

See double-cross, impose on or upon, mislead, mulct, rob, steal, take in

I ask an honest question - how often do we defraud others?

By this I mean: how often do we treat people differently, solely to get something we want? How many times do we say kind or courteous things to make others feel "special" when we know we honestly don't even mean what we say?!

Have you or I ever said something to a certain person in one ambiance or place, but would never say it to them in another situation because we would get into trouble from those around us for saying those things? Our words could cause hurt or cause others to stumble in their walks. We walk without integrity!

Hypothetical situation: Some young people are at school outside, waiting to go home. A guy comes up and says something to a girl to make her feel "special" (flirting even). However, this school is a special training school with extra-strict rules put into place to teach self-discipline. Here at this school, they are not allowed to have any "romantic" relationships for a certain period of time.

If the intention of the guy is to take advantage of the relationship, does his action not fit into God's definition of defrauding? He is going against school policy (lack of respect for regulations) but doing it at a time they are not aware he is doing it. Therefore, isn't he defrauding the people he is accountable to? And is he toying with the girl's emotions? Another type of defrauding?

If the boy makes a sincere compliment, expecting no special privileges as a result, wanting to encourage the girl, then he is walking in integrity. Remember, to defraud someone is to take something through deceit (respect, appreciation, honor) or even IMPLY you will give something (therefore feeding hope) when you don't intend to...or can't.

I wonder if this problem is more prominent with boys than with girls? If I should compliment a girl, the purpose should not be to make her like me more (with personal interest in mind) or to portray something we're not (fake chivalry). And the same for a girl making a guy think he is great, that she really respects him, when in her heart she is laughing. *Do not defraud.*

Another hypothetical situation: At a certain job, you are only allowed to work if you sign a contract that states you will leave the opposite gender alone when it comes to romantic interaction.

If we break this contract at work, we could lose our job. Also, if we do it anywhere else....aren't we still breaking our word, therefore breaking the spirit of the contract?

Just because I am not in the same place where I gave my word, does **not** mean I can break it!



In this type of situation, if you sent an e-mail to a woman you work with saying that she looked unusually attractive at a meeting, or party, or wherever, and how much you'd like to have time to get to know her better what is the underlying purpose of that email? It doesn't matter if she was a friend of yours long before, you gave your word. What gives you the right to break it?

(By the way, there are other ways to compliment a woman than talking about their outer-beauty...ever try the inner? The joy they exhibit, or the peace or ...)

Let's face it, even if you tell yourself you have no personal gain in mind....why would you break this

promise if you didn't want something for yourself? Besides defrauding others, are you defrauding yourself?

Along with all of this, actions are far more effective to show our respect for a woman and/or women than our words. We don't need to put it into words that we think she is a lady: we treat her as one. Not for our own gain, but because we wish to serve the Lord by encouraging others!

... and we do not need to say anything about how chivalrous we are... ever! Unless we want to



obviously be self-eeking. If one is truly a gentlemen, people will point it out to you and NOT the other way around. Any guy who points out how chivalrous he is...is NOT.

Also, did you know, you can make a girl uncomfortable by doing things to be nice/courteous when she truly does NOT want you to do them? Rare, but it does happen. We show respect, when we choose to respect *her* - and we gain favor with God. Forcing my idea of chivalry on her is not giving her respect.

If you are "chivalrous" but deny a women respect, you have become a chauvinistic gentleman....a hypocrite. AND you also defraud her!

Such an easy thing to do - to defraud others and even ourselves in our relationships.

How can we prevent ourselves from doing this? What is the antidote? What should be our goal?

Simple answer.



To walk in sincerity, before God and man. To be people of integrity. To weigh (analyze) our words and actions.

