

1 Corinthians 15:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Analysis

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners (Μὴ πλανᾶσθε· φθείρουσιν ἡθὴ χρηστὰ ὁμιλίας κακαί)—Paul quotes Greek poet Menander's comedy **Thais** (4th century BC), showing his cultural literacy. The verb planaō (πλανᾶω, "deceive, lead astray") warns against intellectual seduction. Homiliai kakai (ὁμιλίας κακαί, "evil associations, bad company") refers to those denying resurrection—their influence phtheirousin (φθείρουσιν, "corrupt, destroy") good ēthē chrēsta (ἡθὴ χρηστά, "character, morals").

False doctrine destroys Christian living. Denying resurrection undermines ethics—if no judgment, no resurrection, why holiness? Paul connects orthodoxy (right belief) with orthopraxis (right living). The Corinthians' tolerance of immorality (chapters 5-6) links to their theological error about resurrection. Beliefs have consequences.

Historical Context

Menander's aphorism was well-known in Greek culture, equivalent to modern proverbs. Paul's use of pagan poetry (also Acts 17:28, Titus 1:12) demonstrates cultural engagement—he quotes their own sources to make gospel arguments. This is pre-evangelistic apologetic strategy: common ground leading to gospel proclamation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do theological errors (like denying resurrection) inevitably corrupt practical Christian living?
2. What 'evil communications' today subtly undermine orthodox Christian belief?
3. How does Paul's use of pagan poetry model cultural engagement without compromise?

Interlinear Text

μὴ	πλανᾶσθε·	Φθείρουσιν	ἥθη	χρησθ'	ὁμιλίαι
not	Be	corrupt	manners	good	communications
G3361	G4105	G5351	G2239	G5543	G3657

κακαί
evil
G2556

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Matthew 24:4 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

1 Corinthians 5:6 (Good): Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Proverbs 9:6 (Parallel theme): Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Ephesians 5:6 (Parallel theme): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Galatians 6:7 (Parallel theme): Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

1 Corinthians 6:9 (Parallel theme): Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

2 Peter 2:2 (Evil): And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Matthew 24:24 (Parallel theme): For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Hebrews 12:15 (Parallel theme): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;