WHY BRETHREN GO OUT FROM US

Intro: 1 John 2:19 “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.” This passage written by John is often used to prove the impossibility of apostasy. They hold that those who went out were supposedly never converted. But John observes that at the time of departure they were not “of us” or faithful Christians.

1. The Possibility of apostasy is seen in the warnings and admonitions of the New Testament.
   a. Love not the world; 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
   b. 1 Cor. 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

2. It is illustrated in lines of:
   a. 1 Tim. 1:19-20 “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”
   b. 2 Tim. 2:16-18 “But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”
   c. 2 Tim. 4:10 “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”

3. We need to understand why brethren go out to help us remain faithful.

I. SOME BRETHREN GO OUT BECAUSE OF TEMPTATION.
   A. Luke 8:13 “They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”
   B. Temptation means:
      1. A testing or trial.
      2. Solicitation to sin.
   C. James describes the process of temptation in Jam. 1:14-15 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
   D. The testing may come from former friends; 1 Pet. 4:3-4 “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.”
   E. Some brethren succumb to the lust of the flesh, eyes, or pride of life; 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

II. SOME GO OUT BECAUSE OF:
   A. Cares of this life; Luke 8:14 “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”
      1. The problem is an emphasis in life.
2. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

3. We get so involved with job, profession, obtaining an education, etc. that their love for the Lord wanes.

4. Worry.
   a. Mat. 6:34 “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”
   b. Phi. 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
   c. 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

B. Riches of this life; Luke 8:14 “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”
   1. The problem of materialism is old but prevalent; Luke 12:15-21 “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. 2And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 3And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 4And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 5And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 6But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 7So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

2. 1 Tim. 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”

3. Love of material things caused:
   a. Judas to betray his Lord; Mat. 26:14-16 “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, 15And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. 16And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him”
   b. Ananias and Sapphira to lie to God; Acts 5

C. Pleasures of this life; Luke 8:14
   1. One may think more of sports than serving the Lord.
   2. One may get to the point that he invest more time, money, and energy in pursuit of the pleasures than in serving the Lord.
   3. Psa. 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”
   4. Psa. 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

III. SOME GO OUT BECAUSE OF FALSE DOCTRINE.
A. We are given warnings:
   1. Christ warns his disciples; Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
   2. Paul warns the Ephesian elders; Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
   3. Peter warns; 2 Pet. 2:1 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”
   4. John warns; 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
B. Thus we are to:

1. Prove everything; 1 Th. 5:21 “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”
2. Contend for the faith; Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

C. There is the possibility of our being lead astray.

1. Eph. 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive”
2. Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

D. Today we are lead astray by such things as:

1. False doctrines concerning truth.
   a. It is unattainable; cf. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   b. It is subjective.
   c. It is obtained through dialogue, and direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
      (1) The only way the Spirit works is through the Word.
      (2) Eph. 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”
2. Unity in diversity doctrine.
   a. 1 Cor. 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
   b. Phi. 2:2 “Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”
3. The church is just another denomination.
   a. There is only one church.
      (1) Eph. 4:4 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling”
      (2) Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   b. Christ has only one bride; Eph. 5.
   c. Christ is the head of that one church; Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
4. Denominational concepts in worship
   a. Once they convince someone may worship like the denominations, then why not go to the denominations.
   b. We must worship God in spirit and truth; John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
5. Doctrine that the Christian is not under law today.
   a. 1 Cor. 9:21 “To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.”
   b. Gal. 6:2 “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”
   c. The New Testament law is called the royal law and the law of liberty; Jam. 2:8, 12 “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well... So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”
6. Morals are relative and determined by the situation and subject.
   a. Jer. 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
   b. Pro. 12:15 “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”

Conclusion: These are some reasons brethren become unfaithful and thus in the grips of spiritual death. 1 John 5:16 “If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.” The only thing more tragic than going out is dying in that condition.