

An aerial photograph of a vast, arid desert landscape. In the foreground, a steep, rocky cliffside descends into a wide valley. A large, dense crowd of people is gathered in the valley floor, appearing as a textured greyish-brown mass. The terrain is characterized by layered rock formations and winding paths. In the distance, a winding road and some small structures are visible against the backdrop of rolling hills and a clear sky.

Deuteronomy

A Call to Covenant Renewal

An open book lies flat on a dark, textured surface. From the center of the book, a bright, intense flame rises, spreading upwards and outwards. The flame is primarily yellow and orange, with some darker, almost black, wisps at the top. The background is dark and slightly out of focus, with some faint, glowing spots. The overall mood is one of purification and transformation.

Purge the Evil from Within Your Midst

Deuteronomy 13:1-18

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, “Let us go after other gods,” which you have not known, “and let us serve them,” you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

Deuteronomy 13:5

But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

Deuteronomy 13:6-8

If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, “Let us go and serve other gods,” which neither you nor your fathers have known, some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from you, from the one end of the earth to the other, you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him.

Deuteronomy 13:9-11

But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.

Deuteronomy 13:12-15

If you hear in one of your cities,
which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there,
that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you
and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying,
“Let us go and serve other gods,” which you have not known,
then you shall inquire and make search and ask diligently.

And behold, if it be true and certain that such an
abomination has been done among you, you shall surely
put the inhabitants of that city to the sword,
devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle,
with the edge of the sword.

Deuteronomy 13:16-18

You shall gather all its spoil into the midst of its open square and burn the city and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God.

It shall be a heap forever. It shall not be built again.

None of the devoted things shall stick to your hand, that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger and show you mercy and have compassion on you and multiply you, as he swore to your fathers,

if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the LORD your God.

An overarching command and question

Command:

Deuteronomy 13:4

You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

Question:

To whom will you listen?

Main Idea

God is holy, and His people are to be holy, and this means that we must be willing to purge the evil from within the covenant community.

Holy God—Holy People

Deuteronomy 14:1-2

You are the sons of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave your forehead for the sake of the dead. For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

You are His sons, His people!

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You are to be a holy people!

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You are the sons of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave your forehead for the sake of the dead.

For **you are a holy people to the LORD** your God; and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

What about us now?

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You are the sons of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave your forehead for the sake of the dead. For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

We are His holy people!

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1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession...

The response then?

Deuteronomy 13:5

So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

The response now?

Deuteronomy 13:5

So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

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The response now?

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So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13

For what have I to do with judging outsiders?
Do you not judge those who are within the church?

But those who are outside, God judges.

Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

Now as then!

Deuteronomy 13:5

So you shall **purge the evil from your midst.**

1 Corinthians 5:12-13

For what have I to do with judging outsiders?
Do you not judge those who are within the church?
But those who are outside, God judges.

**Remove the wicked man from
among yourselves.**

Purge the Evil
From those *over* you.



From those over you.

Who's doing it?

Who's doing it?

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

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or that dreamer of dreams.

Now as then!

Acts 20:29-30

I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

From the inside!

Acts 20:29-30

I know that after my departure savage wolves

will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

and from among your own selves men will arise,
speaking perverse things, to draw away
the disciples after them.

From among your own!

Acts 20:29-30

I know that after my departure savage wolves
will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

and **from among your own selves men
will arise,**

speaking perverse things, to draw away
the disciples after them.

From those over you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

What are they doing?

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or that dreamer of dreams.

The real test is faithfulness!

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

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and gives you a sign or a wonder,
and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass,

**and if he says, “Let us go after other
gods,”**

which you have not known, **“and let us serve them,”**

you shall not listen to the words of that prophet
or that dreamer of dreams.

What are they doing now?

Matthew 24:24

For false Christs and false prophets will arise
and will show great signs and wonders,
so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

What are they doing now?

Matthew 24:24

For false Christs and **false prophets** will arise
and **will show great signs and wonders,**
so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Beware:

Though deception originates outside the camp—from “other gods which you have not known”—it is made acceptable by those inside the camp.

From those over you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

What is God doing?

What is God doing?

Deuteronomy 13:3

For the LORD your God is testing you,
to know whether you love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul.

He is testing your faith!

Deuteronomy 13:3

For **the LORD your God is testing you,**

to know whether you love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul.

He is testing your heart!

Deuteronomy 13:3

For the LORD your God is testing you,

to know whether you love the

LORD your God

with all your heart and with all your soul.

From those over you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

What is God doing?

What are you to do?

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What are you to do?

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So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

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**So you shall purge the evil
from your midst.**

The response now?

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Titus 3:9-10

But shun foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law; for they are unprofitable and worthless.

Reject a factious man after a first and second warning...

An open book lies flat on a dark, textured surface. From the center of the book, a bright, intense flame rises, its colors transitioning from yellow at the base to orange and then to a deep red at the top. The flame has a wispy, ethereal quality. The background is a dark, smoky grey with some faint, glowing particles, creating a somber and dramatic atmosphere.

Purge the Evil

From those over you.

From those *nearest* you.

From those nearest you.

Who's doing it?

Deuteronomy 13:6-8

If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, “Let us go and serve other gods,” which neither you nor your fathers have known...

Deuteronomy 13:6-8

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or your son

or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend

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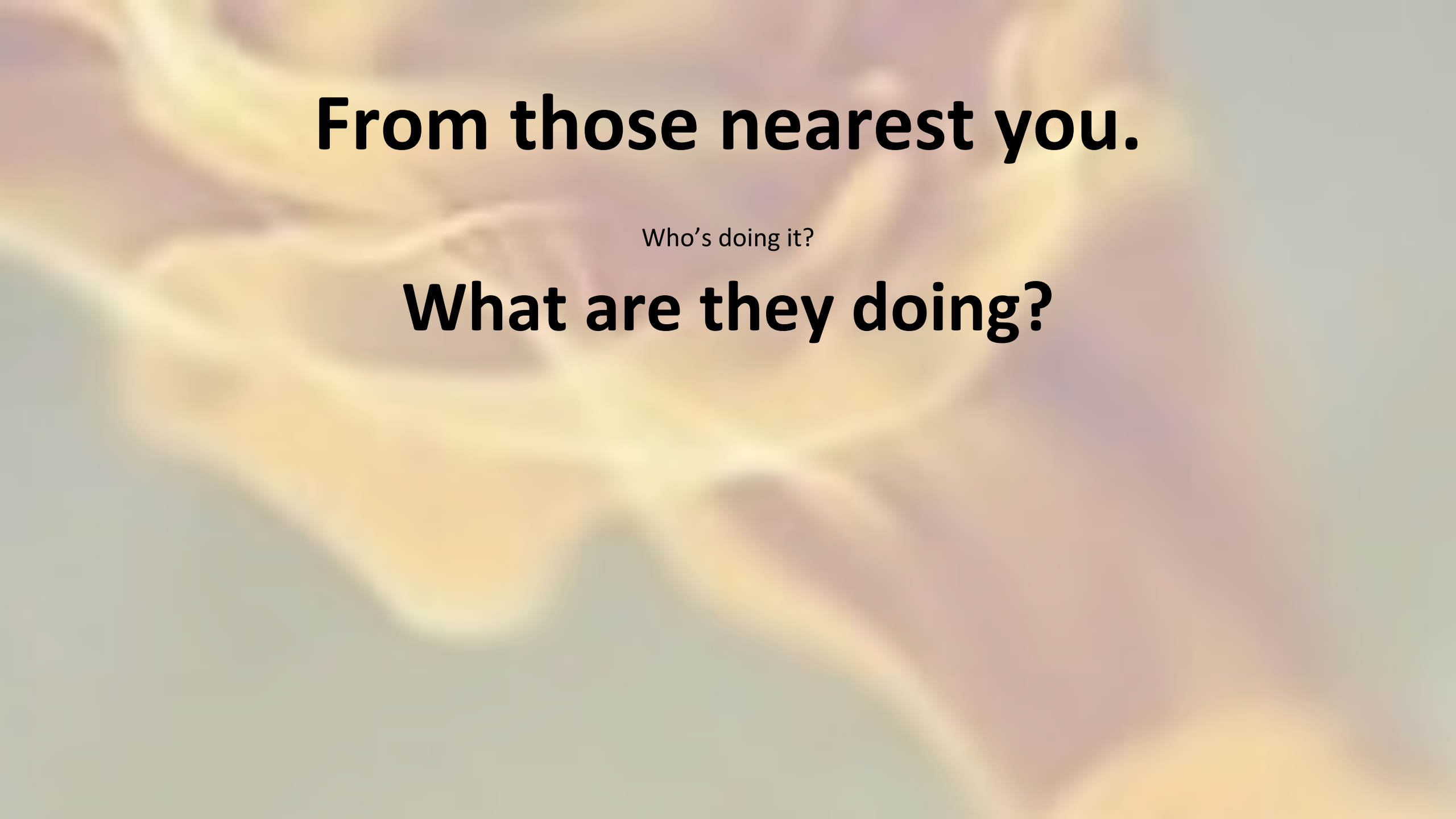
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From those nearest you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

Deuteronomy 13:6-8

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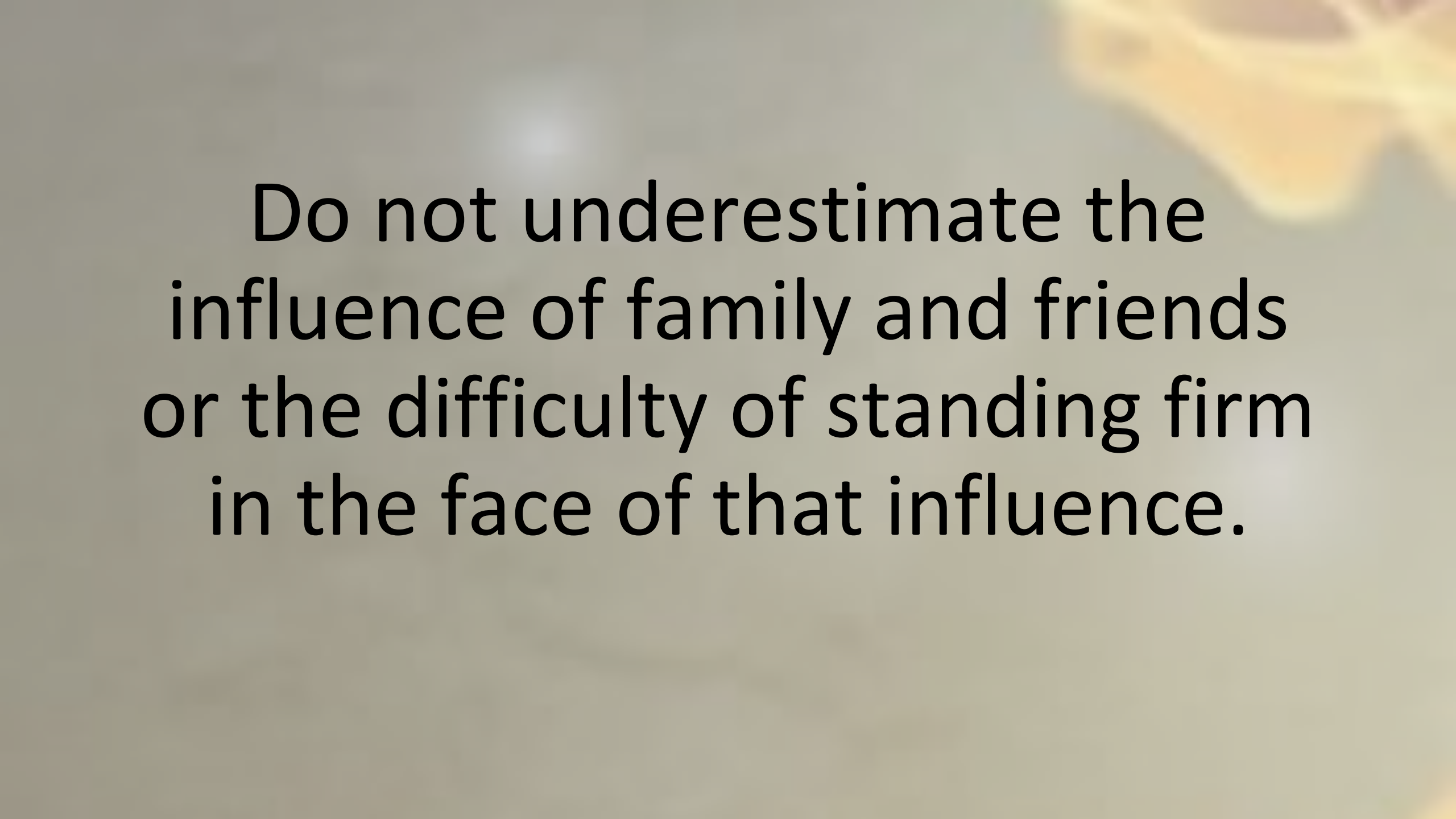
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or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend

who is as your own soul **entices you secretly,**
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other gods,”

which neither you nor your fathers have known...



Do not underestimate the influence of family and friends or the difficulty of standing firm in the face of that influence.

From those nearest you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

What is God doing?

Deuteronomy 13:3

For **the LORD your God is testing you,**

to know whether you love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 13:3

For the LORD your God is testing you,

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with all your heart and with all your soul.

Testing now?

Matthew 10:34-37

Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth;
I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I came to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law
against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be
the members of his household. He who loves father
or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me;
and he who loves son or daughter more than Me
is not worthy of Me.

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From those nearest you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

What is God doing?

What are you to do?

Deuteronomy 13:6-8

If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods," which neither you nor your fathers have known, some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from you, from the one end of the earth to the other,

**you shall not yield to him or
listen to him,**

nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him,
nor shall you conceal him.

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If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son
or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend
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Deuteronomy 13:9-11

But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Why?

And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.

What about us now?

You Personally

Luke 14:26

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

Us Corporately

1 Corinthians 5:7 and 13

Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened.

Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

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Purge the Evil

From those over you.

From those nearest you.

From those *around* you.

From those around you.

Who's doing it?

Deuteronomy 13:12-15

If you hear in one of your cities,
which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there,
that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you
and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city,
saying, “Let us go and serve other gods,”
which you have not known...

If you hear in one of your cities,
which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there,

that certain **worthless fellows** have gone out among you

and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city,
saying, "Let us go and serve other gods,"
which you have not known...

In a sister community.

If you hear **in one of your cities,**

which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there,
that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you
and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city,
saying, "Let us go and serve other gods,"
which you have not known...

From those around you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

If you hear in one of your cities,
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inhabitants of their city,**

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and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city,

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From those around you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

What is God doing?

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to know whether you love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul.

From those around you.

Who's doing it?

What are they doing?

What is God doing?

What are you to do?

You should investigate!

If you hear in one of your cities,
which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there,
that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you
and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying,
“Let us go and serve other gods,” which you have not known,

then **you shall inquire and make search
and ask diligently.**

And behold, if it be true and certain that such an
abomination has been done among you, you shall surely
put the inhabitants of that city to the sword,
devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle,
with the edge of the sword.

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And behold, if it be true and certain that such an
abomination has been done among you, you shall surely
put the inhabitants of that city to the sword,
devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle,
with the edge of the sword.

Devote the city to destruction!


If you hear in one of your cities,
which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there,
that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you
and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying,
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with the edge of the sword.



It is right for us to care about
our broader covenant community
and to be careful about our
corporate partnerships.

Concluding Considerations:

What teachers are you listening to and are you testing what they say?

What is the quality of your family and friends' influence on your thinking?

Are you equipped to discern truth?

What steps will you take now to become better equipped for tomorrow?