

# Flattery

“When your friends begin to flatter you on how young you look, it's a sure sign you're getting old.” -Mark Twain

“Flattery is telling the other person precisely what he thinks about himself.” -Dale Carnegie

“Flattery is like cologne water. You should smell it but not swallow it.” -  
Author Josh Billings

“The trouble with most of us is that we'd rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.” -Norman Vincent Peale

# What is flattery?

- Webster's Dictionary: "insincere or excessive praise"
- The Cambridge Dictionary: "the act of praising someone, often in a way that is not sincere, because you want something from them"

# What Flattery is not

- It is not necessarily flattery to compliment or praise someone

- **Matthew 8:10**

“When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”

# Flattery and Its Associated Sins

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- Showing partiality/causing factiousness

## Job 32:21,22 (NKJV)

“Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; Nor let me flatter any man. For I do not know how to flatter, Else my Maker would soon take me away.”

## Romans 16:17,18 (NKJV)

“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”

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## Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)

“Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”

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- Temptation

## Proverbs 7:5 (NKJV)

“That they may keep you from the immoral woman,  
From the seductress who flatters with her words.”

## Proverbs 7:21 (NKJV)

“With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him.”

# Flattery and Its Associated Sins

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- Showing partiality/causing factiousness
- False teaching
- Temptation
- Lying

## Psalms 5:9 (NKJV)

“For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.”

## Romans 16:18 (NKJV)

“For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”

## I Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

“For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.”



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- False teaching
- Temptation
- Lying
- Being double-tongued

## Psalms 12:2 (NKJV)

“They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart they speak.”

## I Timothy 3:8 (NKJV)

“Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,”

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- Lying
- Being double-tongued
- Gossip

## Proverbs 20:19 (NKJV)

“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”

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- Being double-tongued
- Gossip
- Greed/selfishness

## I Thessalonians 2:5 (NKJV)

“For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness--God is witness.”

## Jude 16 (NKJV)

“These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.”



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- Greed/selfishness
- Lack of love

## Proverbs 26:24-28 (NKJV)

“He who hates, disguises it with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart; Though his hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him. A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.”

## Proverbs 29:5 (NKJV)

“A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet.”

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## Proverbs 28:23 (NKJV)

“He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue.”

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