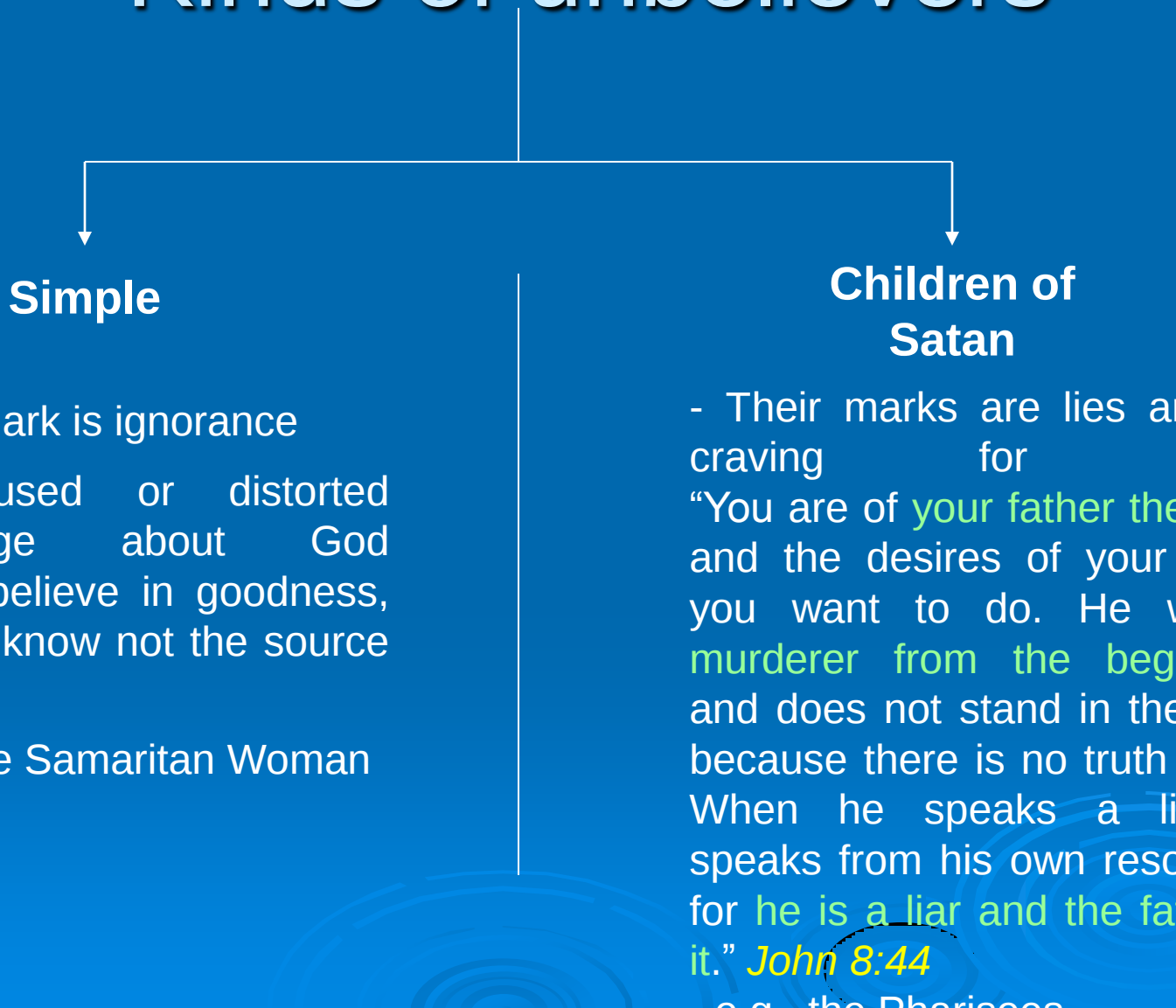


“You worship
what you do
not know; we
know what we
worship”

John 4:22



Kinds of unbelievers



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graph TD; A[Kinds of unbelievers] --> B[Simple]; A --> C[Children of Satan];
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Simple

- Their mark is ignorance
- Confused or distorted knowledge about God
- They believe in goodness, yet they know not the source of it.
- e.g., the Samaritan Woman

Children of Satan

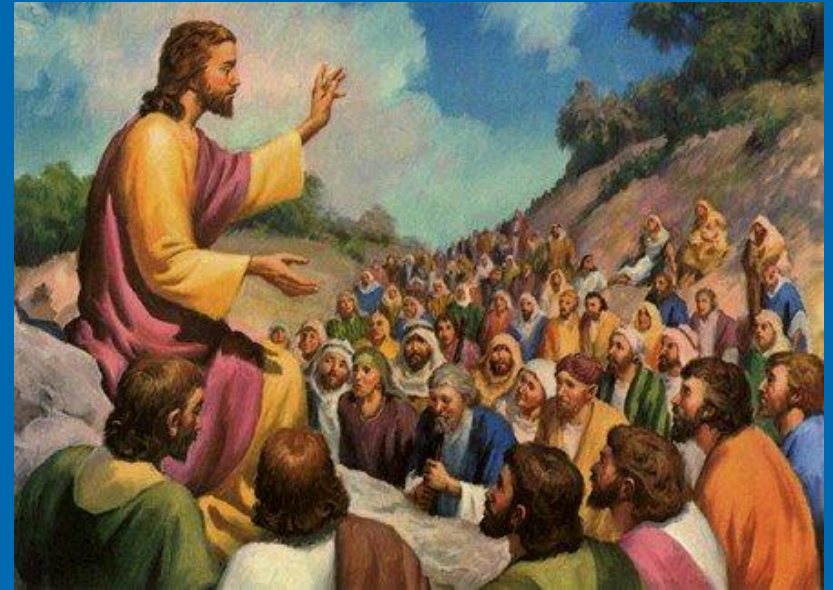
- Their marks are lies and the craving for killing: "You are of **your father the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a **murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a liar and the father of it.**" **John 8:44**
- e.g., the Pharisees

**How are we benefited by
the existence of
unbelievers?**



1. We are blessed because of them

- “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” *Matthew 5:11-12*



2. They allow some of us to be crowned with martyrdom

- “They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service” *John 16:2*



3. Their evil reveals before us the faithfulness of the Lord's sayings

- “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake”
Matthew 24:9



4. They reveal in us the power of the Resurrection

- “...and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”

Matthew 16:18



5. They remind us of how much the Lord loved and endured for us

- “For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls”

Hebrews 12:3

- “Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, ‘This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.’” *Matthew 12:24*



6. They serve as a wake-up call for us

- “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed” *Romans 13:11*



7. God is glorified when He, in due time, justly judges them

- “So the heart of Pharaoh was hard; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the LORD had spoken by Moses”

Exodus 9:35



Things to remember ⁽¹⁾

1. Our doctrine is the doctrine of love; our prayers are for those who persecute us: “Restore the unbelievers”
2. For this we are called: “not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing”

1 Peter 3:9



Things to remember ⁽²⁾

3. The Lord never used a miracle to defend Himself or to convince those who do not believe.
4. We are armed with the light of the Lord's teachings and the love with which He entrusted us toward those who hate us

