

# TAKING A STAND

## REVELATION 13:11-18

### Big Idea:

**Take a stand for truth, because the enemy is a crafty counterfeit.**

### Counterfeit TRINITY (v. 11)

- Ultimately, what is revealed here is a wicked, counterfeit trinity (Revelation 16:13-14).
  - 1.) The Dragon (v. 12:9)
  - 2.) The First Beast (v. 13:1-10)
  - 3.) The Second Beast (or "The False Prophet," v. 13:11-18)

### Counterfeit CHRIST(v. 11)

- Here the second beast presents itself as a lamb, because Christ is the Lamb of God (ch. 5), and Satan's greatest deception is the craftiness with which he counterfeits Christ.
- The beast is most identifiable, not by the image it puts forth, but by the **IDEAS** it speaks forth.

### Counterfeit WORSHIP (v. 12, 15)

- The purpose of ungodly ideologies is to make people worship some form of institutionalized evil.
- The beast works to fix our longing for **TRANSCEDENCE** upon anything and everything except the only One worthy of it.
- The devil delights to take good gifts from God and bring them to a place of idolatry in our hearts and minds.

### Counterfeit SIGNS (v. 13-14)

- The beast counterfeits **ELIJAH'S** ministry of authoritative proclamation in order to do just the opposite (Malachi 4:5).

### Counterfeit MARKS (v. 16-18)

- The mark of the beast is a direct counterfeit of the mark of God described in Deuteronomy 6:4-8.
- Those with the mark of the beast are condemned because it symbolizes their true **SPIRITUAL** condition.

#### - **Two ultimate effects this false prophet has on the world:**

- 1.) It brings spiritual defilement (v. 16).
  - 2.) It brings persecution and oppression against Christians (v. 17).
- History has repeatedly shown that those who do not acquiesce to institutionalized evil will be alienated and persecuted.

#### - *What is the meaning of 666?*

- 666 is not a riddle that conceals the name of the beast, but a spiritual insight communicated through numeric symbolism.
- Six is the number that is closest to seven, but still falls short. It is the number that most resembles God, but is not God.
- 666 is man's **COUNTERFIT** deity to the 777 of the Holy Trinity. It is the unholy trinity of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.
- The beast schemes for our allegiance, and so God calls us to be wise.

### Application

#### 1.) Take captive every thought and make it obedient to **CHRIST**

- Deuteronomy 13:1-4, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, Colossians 2:8

#### 2) Take a stand for **TRUTH** (1 Peter 5:8-11).