

The Devil in Church Pt. 2

January 14, 2018

Ephesians 6:11-12 ESV

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes (*methodeia* - cunning arts, strategy, method, plan, craft, trickery) **of the devil.**

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

1 Peter 5:8 ESV

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Timothy 4:1 ESV

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful (*planos* - seducing) spirits and teachings of demons.

Proverbs 7:10-15 ESV

10 And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.

13 She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him,

14 I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows;

15 so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.

2 Corinthians 2:11 ESV

11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs (*noēma* - evil purpose, mind, thought).

Satan is such a master of manipulation and a genius of deceit that he can make the prostitute look like a saint and he can make heresy look like the truth.

Forms of false doctrine:

1. Denial and rebellion to God's Word.

- a. **Denying the INSPIRATION of the Scriptures** - *The Word of God is God-breathed, directly from His heart, mind and mouth.*
- b. **Denying the INERRANCY of the Scriptures** - *The Word of God contains no errors, every word is true.*
- c. **Denying the INFALLIBILITY of the Scriptures** - *The Word of God is incapable of error, without defect, cannot fail, is absolutely trustworthy, all will be fulfilled.*

2. Imbalance of Biblical Truth creating a distorted understanding and distorted application of God's Word

- The over-emphasis or minimizing of targeted Scriptures, for selfish advantage or personal preference.

1 Corinthians 2:13 YLT

13 which things also we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Holy Spirit, with spiritual things spiritual things comparing.

1 Corinthians 2:13 KJV “...comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

1 Corinthians 2:13 AMP

13 And we are setting these truths forth in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the [Holy] Spirit, combining and interpreting spiritual truths with spiritual language [to those who possess the Holy Spirit].

Examples of balanced Biblical principles which appear to contradict themselves.

- *We are not saved by works, but we cannot be saved without works.*
- *Grace is free and unconditional, yet grace requires holiness of heart and lives.*
- *We are to work out our own salvation, striving to enter into the Kingdom, yet we must rest and cease from our own works.*

- 3. Adding to and subtracting from Scripture - Combining Biblical Truth with worldly wisdom such as self-help, self-improvement, self-esteem or psychological methods.**

Deuteronomy 4:2 ESV

2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:32 ESV

32 "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it."

Proverbs 30:6 ESV

6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

Acts 20:26-27 ESV

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all,

27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Revelation 22:18-19 ESV

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Examples of Contemporary Errors

Self-Promotion vs. Self-Denial / Success vs. Service

- *"I can be a child of God and yet still exercise ownership and control over my life."*
- *"God will enable me to accomplish my will, my agenda and my dreams."*
- *Success is defined by appearance and results instead of obedience and service to God.*

"As a culture, present-day Christianity has redefined spiritual maturity. The reformers knew we were saved to glorify God. We moderns live to be blessed. The mature among us are now thought to be the successful, the happy, the effective people on top of things and doing well . . . We're more attracted to sermons, books, and conferences that reveal the secrets to fulfillment . . . than to spiritual direction that leads us through affliction into the presence of the Father." --Lawrence J. Crabb, Jr., *The Pressure's Off*, p.183.

Mark 8:34 ESV

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny (*aparneomai* - utterly deny, disown, abstain, deny, forget one's self) himself and take up his cross and follow me.

"The cross is laid on every Christian...When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die...That is why the rich young man was so loath to follow Jesus, for the cost of his following was the death of his will."

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Romans 12:1-2 ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Forgiveness Without Repentance / Faith Without Consequential Works / Grace Without Holiness / Justification Without Sanctification

- *There is false doctrine which over-emphasizes grace to the denial of other Biblical principles such as repentance, sanctification and holiness.*
- *If salvation is by faith alone, and not by the merits of my works, then my life choices and lifestyle, even if sinful, make no difference in my eternal salvation or eternal destination.*
- *We are not saved by works, but we cannot be saved without works.*
- *We are not saved by works, but we are saved unto works.*

Jude 1:3-4 ESV

3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

“Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

James 2:14, 17, 24 ESV

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Titus 2:11-13 ESV

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 12:14 ESV

14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Ephesians 5:3-6 ESV

3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Consumed with the Earthly, Neglecting the Heavenly.

- *Neglecting our salvation can damn a soul to Hell just as much as heinous sins such as murder or adultery.*
- *For many professing Christians, neglecting our salvation is not even perceived as sin. The neglect can be easily rationalized and even viewed as reasonable or respectable.*
- *Satan is just as happy with a respectable descent into hell as a wicked descent.*

Matthew 6:19-24 ESV

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,

23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Colossians 3:1-3 ESV

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Luke 14:16-24 ESV

16 But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many.

17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.'

19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.'

20 And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'

24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

Hebrews 2:1-3 ESV

1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

Friends of the World vs. Biblical Separation.

- *In many American churches, there is a strong emphasis on tearing down the “us” and “them” syndrome and removing any barriers, walls, division or separation between the Church and the world.*
- *Instead of the focus in church being to worship and serve the God who dwells among the assembly, the focus is on the unchurched or unsaved and removing anything that could cause the unbeliever to be uncomfortable or offended.*
- *Many times the motive of the professing Christian is not the welfare of the unsaved, but their love and admiration of the world.*
- *Because of a love and admiration for the world, many churches and Christians seek to be accepted and respected by the world, as if that is a respect to be desired.*

"That very church which the world likes best is sure to be that which God abhors."

— Charles H. Spurgeon

Mark 2:15-17 ESV

15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ESV

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; THEN I will welcome you,

18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

2 Chronicles 20:35-37 ESV

35 After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah joined with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted wickedly.

36 He joined him in building ships to go to Tarshish, and they built the ships in Ezion-geber.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, “Because you have joined with Ahaziah, the LORD will destroy what you have made.” And the ships were wrecked and were not able to go to Tarshish.

James 4:4 ESV

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.