

Blurring The Lines With The World - The Carnal Minister

October 27, 2019

The CARNAL MINISTER ministers for three reasons:

1. **Wealth** (*lust of the eyes - the lust for material gain fueled by the delusion that more is better*)
2. **Position** (*lust of the flesh - the lust for power and leverage to manipulate, control and even coerce others*)
3. **Status** (*pride of life - the lust for fame, the praise and admiration of man, resulting in the projection of an image of being successful or spiritually superior*)

“The Cautionary Tale of Jerry Falwell Jr.,” Christianity Today, November 2019 Issue

"Something doesn't smell right in Lynchburg, Virginia, home of Liberty University and its controversial president, Jerry Falwell Jr. According to a September report in Politico:

'Everybody is scared for their life. Everybody walks around in fear,' said a current university employee who agreed to speak for this article only after purchasing a burner phone, fearing that Falwell was monitoring their communications.... 'Fear is probably his most powerful weapon,' a former senior university official said.

Politico also reported that many Falwell confidants are concerned that tuition money is going 'into university-funded construction and real estate projects that enrich the Falwell family and their friends,' going on to detail a number of examples.

Days later, further glimpses of Falwell's leadership character emerged when Reuters quoted leaked emails in which he called some students 'social misfits,' called the school's police chief a 'half-wit and easy to manipulate,' and said students trying to avoid Liberty parking fees were egg-sucking 'dogs.'

...Falwell doesn't emphasize that he is innocent but that, 'In the end, they [his accusers] are going to look like fools.' He believes the entire affair is about power. He told CNN: 'I think it's all a political-based attack by people who wanted to run the school for themselves.'"

Ezekiel 34:2-6 ESV

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?

3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep.

4 The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.

5 So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts.
6 My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

- The true minister of God is willing to serve and walk away with NO return, NO benefit, NO gain, as Jesus did when He was crucified. He served and gave His life, receiving no wealth, no position, nor status.
- Any minister who strives for or insists upon wealth, position or status is a deceiver and a false prophet, serving only himself, stealing from God's people.

2 Corinthians 12:12-15 ESV

12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

13 For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

14 Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

15 I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?

Wealth (*lust of the eyes - the lust for material gain fueled by the delusion that more is better*)

"You don't get rich writing science fiction. If you want to get rich, you start a religion."

— L. Ron Hubbard, Founder of the Church of Scientology

"In the beginning the church was a fellowship of men and women centering on the living Christ. Then the church moved to Greece, where it became a philosophy. Then it moved to Rome, where it became an institution. Next it moved to Europe where it became a culture, and, finally, it moved to America where it became an enterprise."

—Dr. Richard C. Halverson, Pastor, Chaplain of the Senate

Matthew 8:19-20 ESV

19 And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

1 Timothy 3:1-3 ESV

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer (*episkopē - oversee, bishop, elder*), he desires a noble task.

2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

1 Timothy 6:3-10 ESV

3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,

4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,
5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain,

7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Matthew 6:24 ESV

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.

Position (*lust of the flesh - the lust for power and leverage to manipulate, control and even coerce others*)

- *In the natural process of business, the provision for and the perpetuation of ministry depends upon human support, which creates a multitude of temptations for the minister to influence, control and even coerce people's choices and decisions.*

Matthew 20:20-28 ESV

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something.

21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

22 Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able."

23 He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

24 And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.

25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,

28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Ezekiel 34:2,4,5 ESV

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds...

4 The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force (*chozqah - force, vehemence, sharpness, violence*) and harshness (*radah - rule over, have dominion, dominate, tread down, subjugate*) you have ruled them.

5 So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts.

John 6:60 ESV

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

John 6:66-69 ESV

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,

69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Status (*pride of life - the lust for fame, the praise and admiration of man, resulting in the projection of an image of being successful or spiritually superior*)

- *There are many who glory in the prestige of the title and the admiration of their spiritual gifts.*

Matthew 6:1-2 ESV

1 Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Matthew 23:5-7 ESV

5 They [Scribes and Pharisees] do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,

6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues

7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.

Matthew 16:21-23 ESV

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Acts 8:9-11 ESV

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. [NASB "...*claiming to be someone great.*"]

10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great."

11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.

Acts 8:14-24 ESV

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,

15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."

24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."