

## Blurring The Lines With The World - The Carnal Minister Pt.2

November 3, 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*)

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*)

- Having access to and control over a pool of money is more temptation than most can resist.

*"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

*"I don't see anything in the modern 'Christian' church right now that makes me think of Christ. What I see is a business model that is predicated on church leadership never actually having to work a day in their lives, if they can just guilt their parishioners into donating enough money to cover a substantial salary."*

*"When I was growing up, it seemed to me that Christian churches were very much intended to be like big extended families. That no longer appears to be the case. The modern evangelical church is like a big franchised stage show...the idea of 'contemporary worship' has degenerated the modern church to the point where it doesn't even seem like a church anymore. It's like one big franchised off-Broadway production — 'Christianity: The Musical!' I mean that's fine, I love plays and musicals, but call it what it is."*

—"Nobody Has Given Me a Compelling Reason to Return to Church, Leaving Christianity," The Christian Post, Oct 26, 2019

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 6:9-10 ESV

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 process of church business, the provision for and the perpetuation of ministry depends upon voluntary support, which creates a multitude of temptations for the minister to politick, influence, control and even coerce people's choices and decisions.*
- *The more that a leader inserts and exerts himself into your life as an authority, the more Jesus' Lordship is diminished and emasculated.*

*"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."*

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

*"All the crazy stuff by which [Bill] Gothard [Basic Youth Conflicts] demands subservience of your will to his explicit instructions. It's a form of mass hypnosis — constructed by a man who, as it turns out, was primarily interested in preying on young women and built/propagated a theological culture that stripped potential victims of the ability and even the will to defend themselves."*

—“Nobody Has Given Me a Compelling Reason to Return to Church - Leaving Christianity,” The Christian Post, October 26, 2019

**\*\*From 2014 - 2016 Bill Gothard was accused and sued by as many as 34 female employees for sexual harassment. He is no longer associated with the IBLP ministry.**

**Pastor Mark Driscoll**

- *American Evangelical Pastor and Author*
- *Founded Mars Hill Church in Seattle, Washington in 1996*
- *In 2014, Mars Hill has 14,000 members in 5 states and 15 locations*
- *In 2013, Mars Hill elder Dave Kraft filed formal charges accusing Driscoll of being domineering, verbally violent, arrogant and quick-tempered.*
- *In 2014 Mark Driscoll faced more formal complaints from his staff members and congregants for abusive behavior.*
- *In August 2014, the Board removed him from membership.*
- *In October 2014, Mark Driscoll resigned from Mars Hill Church.*
- *Within 3 months Mars Hill Church was dissolved.*

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."

- *"Do you want to go away as well?" Because the choice really does belong to the individual.*
- *"To whom shall we go?" Because it is the ordination of God that has placed us together.*
- *In times of life or death battles, not only the leader, but also the members, need to know who is committed and who is not.*
- *When you give to others the freedom of choice, then whoever leaves and whoever stays is ordained by God. (If a person leaves who was ordained by God to stay, that's between that individual and God - not the leader.)*

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."

*"Our Lord never insists on obedience. He stresses very definitely what we ought to do, but He never forces us to do it. We have to obey Him out of a oneness of spirit with Him. That is why whenever our Lord talked about discipleship, He prefaced it with an 'If,' meaning, 'You do not need to do this unless you desire to do so.' 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself...' (Luke 9:23). In other words, 'To be My disciple, let him give up his right to himself to Me.'"*

—Oswald Chambers, "Obedience or Independence?" November 2

2 Corinthians 1:21-24 ESV

21 And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,

22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

23 But I call God to witness against me--it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth.

24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

- *The cohesion of the congregation is not the authority of the leader ruling over the congregation, but the ordination of God that has placed the members in the Body according to His will.*
  - *"...it is God who establishes us with you..."*
  - *"...to whom shall we go...?"*
- *"...we work with you...not that we lord it over your faith..." is Paul's description of leading by example instead of force.*

1 Peter 5:2-3 ESV

2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

- *The cohesion of the congregation is:*
  - *The ordination of God.*
    - *"...it is God who establishes us with you..."*
    - *"...to whom shall we go...?"*
  - *The attraction and inspiration of example.*