

107 - Are you walking in Spiritual Authority?

In case you haven't noticed, we live in what the Apostle Paul termed "***the present wicked eon***" ([Galatians 1:4](#)). In [Ephesians 6:16](#), Paul said, "***the days are wicked.***" What does it mean to you and me, to live in ***the present wicked eon*** when ***the days are wicked?***

Mark 7:

20 ... "That which is going out of a man, that is contaminating the man.

21 For from inside, out of the heart of men, are going out evil reasonings, prostitutions, thefts, murders,

22 adulteries, greed, wickedness, guile, wantonness, a wicked eye, calumny, pride, imprudence.

23 All these wicked inside things are going out; and those are contaminating the man."

1. Watch what goes out of other people who don't know what you know or walk where you walk, because it is more likely to be contaminating than it is beneficial. The warning Jesus gave in [Mark 4:24](#), applies in all our interactions with people: "***Beware what you are hearing.***"

A crew of guys is here this week re-roofing the house, and today, as I was preparing our study, I could hear the conversation outside in the yard, and one of the guys had a really foul mouth. I had to walk outside and let all of them know that we work ***for*** God ***from*** home. I then looked at the main offender and told him I didn't want to hear his mouth all day. He apologized and we all went about our business.

The point is that what was going out of the man was not only contaminating him but us! His self-contamination is between Him and God, but when it affects our lives, it's unnecessary and unacceptable, and must be brought under correct spiritual authority.

Barbara says, "Someone is always in spiritual authority." How do you know who it is? Watch what's coming out and from whom. If you are at any time under someone else's spiritual authority, you will be putting up with their contamination. You won't be addressing it, even though you find it irritating. When you are in spiritual authority, you will require others to speak and act with respect, must as you are speaking and acting.

Jesus called all the things coming out of a person, in [Mark 7:21-22](#), "***All these wicked inside things.***"

2. Watch what comes out of you. You and I have a much higher accountability than others BECAUSE of what we know, where we walk, and especially because of Whose we are!

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

- 33 Be not deceived: evil conversations are corrupting kind characters.
- 34 Sober up justly and do not be sinning, for some have an ignorance of God.

The definition of “**evil**” is “*the opposite of good, to be distinguished from sin, in that evil is not a mistake when God creates evil.*” Paul says here, “Hey! Don’t be stupid! Conversations that are not good destroy your character, so wake up out of your drunkenness and quit missing the mark, because some people don’t know God at all – are you going to be like one of them? What if you are the only representative of God that someone sees? How is He going to look to them? I heard someone ask recently, “*If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?*”

2 Timothy 4:3,4

- 3 For the era will be when they will not tolerate sound teaching, but, their hearing being tickled, they will heap up for themselves teachers in accord with their own desires,
- 4 and, indeed, they will be turning their hearing away from the truth, yet will be turned aside to myths.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

- ...pray, brethren, concerning us, that the word of the Lord may race and be glorified, according as it is with you also,
- 2 and that we should be rescued from ***abnormal and wicked men***, for **not for all is the faith.**

Contrary to some Christian religious teaching, Paul clearly says, “*Hey! Guess what? Not everyone is going to believe. We don’t want to waste our time and energy with abnormal and wicked men; on the contrary, we want to be rescued from them!*”

Ephesians 5:3-4

- all prostitution and uncleanness or greed -- let it not even be named among you, according as is becoming in saints --
- 4 and vileness and stupid speaking or insinuating, which are not proper.

Vileness is “*obscenity, filthiness,*” and **insinuendo**, one of my favorite words in scripture, means “*offensively rude or abusive remarks,*” basically gutter talk – crass, low jesting. I don’t know about groups of women, but groups of men seem to be particularly prone to this kind of low, crass conversation.

There is probably nothing we’ve looked at so far that isn’t recognizable to you wherever you go out in the world. Most of the people you and I see everyday are busy living for themselves and not for or to God. Some of them – heck maybe most of them – may be Christians. They may even go to church on Sunday, but once the service is over and the choir has filed out of the sanctuary, life resumes as it was. No one and nothing has changed. If that seems harsh or judgmental, it’s only because it’s been my observation that living in a moment-by-moment recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and by the leading of the Holy Spirit in the most minute details of everyday life, is an uncommon phenomenon. Maybe because giving every detail of life over to God seems so impractical to, even though that’s exactly what the scripture teaches. I’ve long believed that ultimately, every human being is a control freak, scrambling to steer his or her life in the direction they think best.

There’s an old cliché in psychology that says, “EGO is Edging God Out.” Everyone around us may be doing exactly that to one degree or another and it’s a real and present danger that we could get sucked into whatever drama or banter someone else is into.

Jesus said, “***out of the superabundance of the heart his mouth is speaking***” ([Luke 6:45](#)).

Matthew 15:19

19 For out of the heart are coming wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, prostitutions, thefts, false testimonies, calumnies.

Wherever you and I go, we had better be in spiritual authority, because in every relationship and in every situation, someone is always in spiritual authority. There is nothing to gain and everything to lose when we give ours over to someone else whom we do not know, to whom God has not been sent us, or from whom God has not sent us to receive ministry. If we get hooked into the idle conversations, we endanger our purity, blur our focus and even compromise our call, to say nothing of giving God a black eye because we sank to the enemy’s level.

I’m convinced that this was why the scripture says, “***Jesus Himself did not entrust Himself to them, because of His knowing all men***” ([John 3:24](#))

Look at the context in which that scripture was written:

[John 3:9, 22-25](#)

9 Jesus...said, "Raze this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

22 When, then, He was roused from among the dead, His disciples are reminded that He said this, and they believe the scripture and the word which Jesus said.

23 Now as He was in Jerusalem at the Passover in the festival, many believe in His name, beholding His signs which He did.

24 Yet Jesus Himself did not entrust Himself to them, because of His knowing all men,

25 for He had no need that anyone should be testifying concerning mankind, for He knew what was in mankind.

You can show up under the anointing of God, and through your words and your hands, you can save, heal and deliver people all day long, but when it comes right down to it, He's the only one you and I can really trust. If we think we can trust someone else, outside of the ones God has put specifically in our lives to watch over us, we are kidding ourselves. Wherever we go, in whatever situation or relationship we find ourselves, we had better be the ones in spiritual authority. It's the only solution to all the "Yuck" that is common in ***the present wicked eon?***

[Matthew 10:1](#)

Calling His twelve disciples to Him, **He gives them authority** over unclean spirits, so as to be casting them out, and to be curing every disease and every debility.

[1 Thessalonians 5:13-22](#)

Be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we are entreating you, brethren; admonish the disorderly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the infirm, be patient toward all.

15 See that no one may be rendering evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue that which is good for one another as well as for all.

16 Be rejoicing always.

17 Be praying unintermittingly.

18 In everything be giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Quench not the spirit.

- 20 Scorn not prophecies.
21 Yet be testing all, retaining the ideal.
22 From everything wicked to the perception, abstain.

Romans 12:9-21

- 9 Let love be unfeigned. Abhorring that which is wicked, clinging to good,
10 Let us have fond affection for one another with brotherly fondness, in honor deeming one another first,
11 in diligence not slothful, fervent in spirit, slaving for the Lord,
12 rejoicing in expectation, enduring affliction, persevering in prayer,
13 contributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality.
14 Bless those who are persecuting you: bless, and do not curse,
15 so as to be rejoicing with those rejoicing, lamenting with those lamenting.
16 being mutually disposed to one another, not being disposed to that which is high, but being led away to the humble. Do not come to pass for prudent with yourselves.
17 To no one render evil for evil, making ideal provision in the sight of all men,
18 if possible that which comes out from yourselves. Being at peace with all mankind,
19 you are not avenging yourselves, beloved, but be giving place to His indignation, for it is written, Mine is vengeance! I will repay! the Lord is saying.
20 But "If your enemy should be hungering, give him the morsel; if he should be thirsting, give him to drink, for in doing this you will be heaping embers of fire on his head."
21 Be not conquered by evil; but conquer evil with good.

1 Corinthians 5

- 11 ...I write to you not to be commingling with anyone named a brother, if he should be a paramour, or greedy, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner. With such a one you are not even to be eating.
12 For what is it to me to be judging those outside? You are not judging those within!

13 Now those outside, God is judging. Expel the wicked one from among yourselves.

Titus 3:9

9 Yet stand aloof from stupid questioning and genealogies and strifes and fightings about law, for they are without benefit and vain.

1 Timothy 1:5-6

love out of a clean heart and a good conscience and unfeigned faith,
6 from which some, swerving, were turned aside into vain prating,

1 Timothy 6:

20 O Timothy, that which is committed to you, guard, turning aside from the profane prattlings and antipathies of falsely named "knowledge,"

21 which some are professing. As to the faith, they swerve. Grace be with you! Amen!

2 Timothy 2:

16 Yet from profane prattlings stand aloof, for they will be progressing to more irreverence,

17 and their word will spread as gangrene

2 Timothy 3:

1 ...in the last days perilous periods will be present,

2 for men will be selfish, fond of money, ostentatious, proud, calumniators, stubborn to parents, ungrateful, malign,

3 without natural affection, implacable, adversaries, uncontrollable, fierce, averse to the good,

4 traitors, rash, conceited, fond of their own gratification rather than fond of God;

5 having a form of devoutness, yet denying its power.

...

13 Yet wicked men and swindlers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

...

6 These, also, shun.

2 Timothy 4:2, 5

2 Herald the word. Stand by it, opportunely, inopportunely, expose, rebuke, entreat, with all patience and teaching.

5 ...you be sober in all things; suffer evil as an ideal soldier of Christ Jesus; do the work of an evangelist; fully discharge your service.

Mark 16

17 Now these signs shall fully follow in those who believe: In My name they shall be casting out demons; they will be speaking in new languages;

18 they will be picking up serpents; and if they should be drinking anything deadly, it should under no circumstances be harming them; they will be placing hands on those who are ailing, and ideally will they be having it."

19 The Lord, indeed, then, after speaking with them, was taken up into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

20 Now they, coming away, herald everywhere, the Lord working together with them and confirming the word by the signs following them up.

Look at verses 17 and 18: do you see a time limit anywhere? I don't. The key to operating IN the world but not being OF the world is to take these scriptures as a manual for daily living in spiritual authority in every situation and relationship. Barbara says often, "There are no friendly snakes." I remember a few years ago, when the word the Lord gave Barbara and me was, "Circle the wagons." What's the message? You can call or email us about anything and know you're safe. Outside the camp, though, you and I better have our eyes open, our antenna up, our armor on, and walk in spiritual authority. Don't lose sight of the fact that we live in "***the present wicked eon***" where people are mostly concerned and occupied with their own lives, not yours, and where may if not most don't know God well enough to care about Him or His purpose in their lives.

Circle your wagons. Keep your eyes and ears open for what God is speaking to your spirit. And keep your ear gates and eye gates alert for what's trying to come in that would distract, detour, or delay your purpose; what would deflate -- or worse -- defile your spirit.