

Spiritual Warfare

We Have an Enemy and It's Not Each Other

Sunday, October 3, 2010

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Message Truth:

Step one in our warfare plan is to realize that we do have an enemy and that it is not one another. Jesus has and continues to pray for our spiritual protection and unity. Our unity is critically important to our ability to engage in spiritual warfare. In His Model Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray for protection from the evil one. In His High Priestly Prayer, Jesus also prayed for protection from the evil one as well as our spiritual unity. Besides the weapon of temptation, Satan also uses the weapon of accusation against God's servants. He does this directly and by using others. His goal is to bring accusations against God's people so that he may ultimately bring disunity to the body of Christ and cause us to disobey Christ's command to love one another.

"... pleasing self, is the great sin of man, ... a Christian is a man who is to never seek his own will, but is always to seek the will of God, ..."

- *The Master's Indwelling*, Andrew Murray

The Enemy's Schemes

Temptation

- Lust of the flesh. the desire to enjoy
- Lust of the eyes. the desire to obtain
- Pride of life. the desire to accomplish

Accusation

- Satan accuses God's people d_____.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For **the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night**, has been hurled down. Revelation 12:10

- Satan uses l_____ people to accuse God and His people.

¹ Why do **the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**
² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, **against the LORD and against his anointed**, saying, ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." Psalm 2:1-3 (ESV)

- Satan used r_____ people to accuse Christ and the early Christians.

¹ After five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders, with an attorney named Tertullus, and **they brought charges to the governor against Paul.** ² After Paul had been summoned, **Tertullus began to accuse him**, saying to the governor, "Since we have through you attained much peace, and since by your providence reforms are being carried out for this nation, Acts 24:1-2 (NASB)

- Satan can even get C_____ to begin to accuse one another.

- This occurs mostly to cause God's people to not obey the command to l_____ one another.

³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**, even **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. ³⁵ **"By this all men will know that you are My disciples**, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34–35 (NASB)

- **This occurs secondly to use God's people to subvert biblical I _____ in the church.**

⁹ I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. ¹⁰ So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church. ¹¹ Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. 3 John 9–11

¹⁸ This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, ¹⁹ keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. ²⁰ Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme. 1 Timothy 1:18–20 (NASB)

- **Accusations cannot hurt us u _____.**

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. . .

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither

height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:18,31,38–39

- **Accusations can hurt us p _____.**

¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4:14–18 (NASB)

When we allow the actions of others or the accusations of Satan to grow and go unanswered until they come to be believed by the individual, this may lead to:

- Vain r _____ and condemnation.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 (NASB)

- G _____ guilt vs. s _____ conviction.

- The use of "y _____" and "them" language instead of "I" and "w _____" language.