

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

1. INTRODUCTION – SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. Who are the enemies Christians must “STAND AGAINST”?

1. The World:

1 John 2:15-16 (NASB) Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

2. The Flesh:

Romans 7:18-20 (NASB) For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

3. The Devil:

Ephesians 6:12 (NASB) For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the **spiritual forces of wickedness** in the heavenly places.

Revelation 12:7-9 (NASB) And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole world**; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

B. Satan **DECEIVES** us to get our **FOCUS OFF GOD** and **ON OURSELVES** and **OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**.

1. **OFF GOD’S GRACE** and **ON OUR WORKS** done in the **FLESH**.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB) For by **grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*; **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

2. **NOTE: PHYSICAL SOLUTIONS CANNOT SOLVE SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS!**

3. **THE CHRISTIAN’S BATTLE IS SPIRITUAL.**

4. “If all you see is what you see, you will never see all that there is to be seen”. – Tony Evans

5. We cannot **outwit** the “**father of all lies**” who is the **master of deception** and **confusion**. Therefore, we **MUST** use **GOD’S STRATEGIES** for **VICTORY** in **SPITURAL WARFARE**.

6. **DISCUSS: SPIRITUAL IQ**

a. **Genius** =

b. **Satan’s** =

c. **God’s** =

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2. REVIEW

A. As **Christians** we are entangled in intense **warfare** with our **enemy** the devil/satan... the **REALITY OF THE BATTLE:**

Ephesians 6:10-18a (NASB) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of **the devil**. **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**. **Stand firm** therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**; in addition to all, taking up the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the **Spirit**, which is the **word of God**. With all prayer and petition **pray at all times** in the Spirit,

B. **REMEMBER...** Jesus delivered us from the **PENALTY OF SIN (Justification)**, **BUT NOT from the PRESENCE OF SIN (Glorification)!**

C. Because our **enemy** the devil/satan and his forces are **SPIRITS**, our **battle** is a **SPIRITUAL BATTLE**, and therefore our **weapons must be SPIRITUAL WEAPONS:**

Corinthians 10:3-5 (NASB) For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh**, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are **taking every thought captive** to the obedience of Christ,

D. The **FIRST** recorded **ATTACK** by the devil/satan was **against the FAMILY:** **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6 (NASB)** Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."... Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Indeed, has God said**, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "**You surely will not die!** For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**" When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and **she gave also to her husband with her**, and he ate.

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1. **CHRISTIAN FAMILIES** have always been one of **satan's main targets**, and he is **still attacking the FAMILY today**.
 2. The **focus** of this class is on **CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE**, therefore we are going to discuss **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** in the **CONTEXT** of **MARRIAGE... HOW SATAN ATTACKS OUR MARRIAGES, AND HOW WE ARE TO BATTLE IN THE POWER OF GOD**.
- E. We do **NOT** have to **FEAR** the **devil/satan** and his schemes. Our Lord Jesus Christ has Secured **OUR ULTIMATE VICTORY** through His triumphant victory for us over the devil/satan and his forces of evil.
- Colossians 2:8-15 (NASB)** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **having canceled out the certificate of debt** consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- John 3:16 (NASB)** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him **shall not perish, but have eternal life**.
- Romans 10:8-10 (NASB)** But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved**; for with the **heart** a person **believes**, resulting in **righteousness**, and with the **mouth** he **confesses**, resulting in **salvation**.
- F. **BUT... the devil/satan is a shrewd enemy**. He has been **tempting and deceiving God's people** for centuries putting **snare in our path** and **thoughts in our minds** to **GET OUR EYES OFF JESUS** and **ONTO OURSELVES AND OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**.
1. He **TEMPTS** us in many ways, and his **METHODS** differ with each of us because he **KNOWS OUR POINTS OF WEAKNESS** and **CUSTOMIZES WHAT WORKS AGAINST US INDIVIDUALLY**. Whether it's immorality, dishonesty, bitterness, **PRIDE...** he knows what it takes to snare us.
 2. He uses our **sinful nature against us**:
Galatians 5:16-21 (NLB) So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The **sinful nature** wants to do evil,

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which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so that you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the Law of Moses. When you follow the **desires of your sinful nature** the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissention, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. **But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the **deeds of the flesh** are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and sins like these.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

3. The **nature of sin** is such that if we **do not confess it**, and fortify those areas... we will **CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE SPIRITUAL DEFEAT!**

4. **REMEMBER: SATAN IS A LIAR**

John 8:44 (NASB) "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

3. **SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS A BATTLE FOR THE MIND**

A. Protecting our **minds** from the devil's/satan's onslaughts is **vital** because **SIN BEGINS AS A THOUGHT...** he wants bring some plan to our **MINDS** to get us to **ACT ON IT IN REBELLION AGAINST GOD.**

B. **NOTE: SPIRITUAL WARFARE OFFENSIVE TOOL:**

1. **"IN THE NAME OF MY SAVIOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, I GIVE NO CONSENT TO THAT THOUGHT SATAN, AND IN JESUS' NAME YOU MUST GO... NOW!"**

a. MUST BE **SPOKEN PUT LOUD** BECAUSE SATAN **CANNOT READ OUR MINDS.**

b. **HE CAN SEE OUR PATTERNS, AND HE CAN SEE OUR GENERATIONAL PATTERNS.**

Exodus 20:5 (NASB) "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations** of those who hate Me, (See also Exodus 34:7; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:9)

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2. **DISCUSS: GENERATIONAL SIN = SPIRITUAL DNA PASSED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER.**

- a. Pride
- b. Anger
- c. Fear
- d. Physical or emotional abuse
- e. Sexual immorality
- f. Alcohol
- g. Pornography
- h. Divorce
- i. Critical and judgmental spirit
- j. Lying
- k. Prohibitive conscience
- l. See Galatians 5:19-20

C. Our **THOUGHTS** can come from of one three **SOURCES**:

1. **Ourselves**
2. **God**
3. **Satan**
4. ... IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THE SOURCE OF OUR THOUGHTS.

4. **PREVIEW OF GOD'S STRATEGIES FOR VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE.**

A. **THE BELT OF TRUTH**

Ephesians 6:10-14 (NASB) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**,

1. **DISCUSS TRUTH:**

John 8:31-32 (NASB) So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

1. What phrase **stands out** in **John 8:32**?

2. "The truth will set you free"

3. **NO... Truth doesn't set anyone free! Rather, IT'S THE TRUTH THAT YOU KNOW THAT WILL SET YOU FREE!**

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4. Therefore, we must KNOW what God's Word says if we are to be **VICTORIOUS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**