

September 5, 2011 The Verdict Is In!

We've uploaded four segments in our [Way of the Lord](#) series on passive aggression (24 thru 27). Several weeks ago as we were praying, the Holy Spirit impressed on us to research **passive aggressive behavior**. As we learned more about the topic, He showed us that passive aggressive behavior isn't as much a psychological problem as a *deeply rooted spiritual darkness* that begins early in a person's life. That spiritual darkness is so entwined around an individual's identity that it's difficult for them to separate themselves from its harmful effect on relationships, whether with our Lord Jesus or with other people. All of us manifest various symptoms of passive aggression if we *weren't raised* in a home where Jesus was loved and served as Lord and where the Scriptures were role modeled and instilled in us as a way of life. But if we don't recognize this barrier and cast it from our lives, we'll remain imprisoned by our sin nature.

The most injurious aspect of passive aggression is that it prevents you from loving and serving Jesus as LORD of your life. Whether out of fear, rebellion, anger or whatever, you refuse to give Jesus His rightful authority as LORD to rule your life. You substitute comfortable religious practices by which you can attend a service and participate in activities and programs—and no one confronts you about your unyielding darkness that keeps your relationship with Jesus superficial and optional. While you can mouth biblical-sounding phraseology and appear "spiritual", the command of Jesus that He be the LORD you live for neither penetrates your life nor translates into the obedient responsiveness He calls for: *"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me"* (Luke 9:23).

Because passive aggression is such a pervasive impediment that keeps so many from following Jesus as LORD of their life, we needed four segments to discuss the topic. We also felt it important that you have access to all four segments at once so you can prayerfully go through them to discover if *you* are being hindered from living with Jesus ruling your life. We're currently working on segments that discuss the LORDSHIP of Jesus and what that lifestyle looks like when He is indeed your loving Lord and Master. Segment 28 of this topic of Lordship is already posted on the website. These segments on His Lordship will be meaningless to you, however, if you are still trapped by passive aggressive motives and symptoms.

"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God" (John 3:19-21).

During the past few days we've had a wonderful time **"talking in the Spirit"** with two couples and two singles who are wholeheartedly pressing on in the Lordship of Jesus in their lives. Three of these individuals we've known for many years and have been privileged to be part of their growth into the ever-increasing character of Jesus. The other three are more recent family in Jesus to us, and have been diligently making the Hebraic foundations a way of life.

"Talking in the Spirit" is our phrase for speaking with someone whose heart is so bent on living for Jesus that they can immediately discern in their spirit the truths you share with them. It's a mutual edification of interactive discussion with each other. Because the focus in the conversation is on loving, serving and representing Jesus in daily life, these people are easy to encourage in their quest to become more like Jesus as they live *for Him*. And people who "talk in the Spirit" are quick to be convicted when a darkness is exposed in them; they want nothing to hinder their life in Jesus!

We wish we could joyfully report to you that our years of ministering in Christendom have overflowed with these kinds of conversation! But sadly, that's not been the case. For the most part we find ourselves in communication with "Christians" who want to keep their worldly lifestyles and "add on" to it some degree of spiritual change. They want to be able to think of themselves as "Christian" but have as little as possible disrupt their convenient and mostly pleasurable way of living. Conversations with them leave us emotionally drained as we realize anew how much worldly compromise has shoved aside God's Word as the standard for living, and brought about a very "sin-tolerant perspective" that blends right in with the world's ways and values.

Perhaps you've found this when you've been prompted by the Spirit to engage particular people in spiritual truth. Their *lack* of response is painful, as the prophet Isaiah was forewarned about those who are deaf, blind and hard of heart when truth is spoken (see Isaiah 6:9,10, apperceived by Jesus in Matthew 13:13-15). They hide so readily behind the deceitful symptom of worldly rationale that they *can't* understand in their spirit the truths you're sharing with them. It's as though you're speaking a different language! And how disheartening when you realize that they refuse to rid themselves of deceiving spirits because, as John lamented, they wanted to go on doing deeds of darkness rather than follow the One Who is light.

But those who are trying to straddle the religious fence of compromise aren't acting alone! They can hide from the light of Christ by joining congregations in which people, including the leadership, have the same prevalent demonic strongholds. Everyone feels comfortable because "I'm OK/You're OK", at least from a worldly viewpoint. As we so often observed when we conducted Demolishing Strongholds seminars, an entire congregation is generally influenced or controlled *by the same stronghold(s)*. That's why everyone feels so warmly accepted in their mutual deception—the pews are filled with others who *love the same spiritual darkness* they enjoy.

You probably grieve when you speak with darkness-controlled "Christians" who think they're *just like you* in goals and values and priorities. In fact, since they regularly sit in pews alongside many others, they may even pride themselves on being "more spiritual" than you are if you aren't under a steeple as well. And the enemy of our souls *wants* the hearts and understanding of people to remain shut to the Truth that you would offer. God's verdict against the worldly rationale of human wisdom was passed centuries ago by the Apostle Paul:

"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:12-14).

Keep in mind that it's not you they are rejecting, but the Lord Jesus and the light that you're trying to reveal to them. Recently the Spirit made clear to us that we needed to let go of some people we deeply care about because they refuse to flee deceit and rationale (see Luke 10:8-11). He warned us that we were using up the emotional capacity we need to be about the ministry our Father gave us. While our spirit yearns to help, our emotional capacity has limits. But how great is our Lord to assure us that He *would* deal with them, and that we needed to get out of the way.

Think about those in your own relational sphere who call themselves "Christians" but who have made clear by their attitudes and choices that they prefer the world's ways to the way our Lord has made clear in His Word. Could *you* be in the way of God bringing to them the circumstances, encounters and situations they need for Him to get their attention? And could your own emotional fatigue be robbing you of those relationships in which our Father could bear fruit through you? The fields are ripe for harvest. Open your eyes to see from HIS perspective, and go harvest!

Mike & Sue

We were deeply affected by a recent David Wilkerson letter posted posthumously, "Good News for the Lukewarm." We thought you might be blessed by it too. <<http://www.worldchallenge.org/view/newsletters>>