

# *Spiritual Wickedness*

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Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- I. Spiritual wickedness must have some significant difference than just plain wickedness.
  - A. The word “spiritual” means “not sensual, relative to the mind only, not carnal, or physical.
  - B. Spirit has to do with that vital principle that controls and sustains our life.
  - C. Carnal wickedness is not the same thing as spiritual wickedness – there must be a difference or this phrase would not be in the Bible.
  - D. Obviously, it is very possible for a person to appear righteous outwardly, but be spiritually wicked.

Matthew 23:25-28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

- E. If there is a greater wickedness, it must be spiritual wickedness.
  - F. It is spiritual wickedness that justifies carnal wickedness, and provides the occasions for it.
    1. Satan reasoned with Eve and worked on her mind and spirit before she actually reached out with her hand and took the fruit to her lips.
  - G. That is why when there is spiritual wickedness in the high places carnal wickedness abounds and grows like a cancer very quickly.
- II. Our spiritual battle is not with the masses of people, but with spiritual wickedness, especially when it is found in high places.
  - A. High places are those places of authority; political, religious, medical, and education.
  - B. The strongholds of spiritual wickedness in the high places is what makes life a struggle for the righteous who regard God's moral law.

Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

- C. The very business and goal of Satan and all his fallen angels is to destroy the moral order of God's Creation, and they are ceaseless in that effort.
  - D. From the high places they can make the laws of the land, forbid what is good, and permit, and even command what is evil.
  - E. Wars are always started by one man or a handful of men.
  - F. When a people is oppressed and subjugated it is by one man or a handful of men.
  - G. When a country is destroyed it is by the command of one man or a handful of men.

- H. The course of human history has been dominated by the influence and exploits of the Hamans, the Pharoahs, the Herods, the Sauls, the Rehaboams, the Manassehs, the Nazis, the Communists, and the Iatolas.
- I. In spite of there being much more evil than good among the leaders of men righteousness has always prevailed in the end, and there are reasons for that.
- J. First of all, because there is a God in Heaven who is the Almighty, and the power of truth and righteousness is greater than the power of sin and wickedness.
- K. That power has been entrusted to God's people, individually, and as the church of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

- L. We have Christ as our Captain, his Word as our sword, and all the armor He has provided for us to stand against this spiritual wickedness in high places.
  - 1. And our orders are to stand.

Ephesians 6:13-14 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Ecclesiastes 10:4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

- M. We must face the enemy and stand on the truth with our armor on and our weapon drawn.

- III. Spiritual wickedness is when the authority of God is set aside and replaced with the authority of a man or men.
  - A. Legalized abortion is spiritual wickedness.
  - B. Legalized sodomy is spiritual wickedness.
  - C. Legalized prostitution is spiritual wickedness.
  - D. When fornication is facilitated and protected by the authorities it is spiritual wickedness, whether in the churches or in the government.
  - E. When laziness and waste and dependency is encouraged by the authorities it is spiritual wickedness.

Wickedness is Departure from the rules of the divine law; evil disposition or practices; immorality; crime; sin; sinfulness; corrupt manners Wickedness generally signifies evil practices.

- F. It is spiritual wickedness that justifies and creates the occasion for carnal wickedness.
- G. Animals have no morals because they are not moral beings.
  - 1. They simply live by their carnal desires and instincts.
  - 2. Most people live the same way.
- H. However, there is a threshold where carnal wickedness becomes spiritual wickedness.
  - 1. When the carnal desire is driven by hatred and contempt for the moral authority of God and his Word it is no longer just carnal wickedness, but spiritual wickedness.
- I. These are those people we meet in whom we seem to sense an extra measure of darkness.
- J. Their sin has an extra dimension to it than just careless, carnal lusts, and appetites.

- K. Their sinful acts are not only to satisfy their unlawful lusts, but to spite the moral authority that forbids them.
1. This is why they can neuter a pedophile and it will not cure him.
- L. This is also the answer to why some people can do certain things for a lifetime and it never takes them to the bottom and the same vice in others will completely destroy their life and bring them to an early death.
- M. It is also the explanation for why the politicians, the celebrities, and the false prophets have so much power to influence the morals of the masses.
1. They are Satan's representatives and are there to do his work in destroying the moral order established by God in his Creation.
  2. They speak to more than just over-indulgent, undisciplined, lawless people – they speak to those who hate moral authority, and those are the ones who hate God.
  3. The great thing for these spiritual wicked people who are in authority is that the simple-minded, carnally-minded, people who live like animals are glad to have them in authority, too, so they can always win elections.
  4. They are wicked, so they are not bound by any moral law, so they will cheat, kill, steal, lie, or whatever else it might take to grab the power and hold onto it.
- N. It is the answer for why so many people get off the narrow way and ride hobby horses, or become obsessed with things such as health and fitness, diets, crazy religious ideas, strange philosophies (flat-earth, alien origins, ghosts, bigfoot, and anything else that will bring you into opposition with God and his moral law, and the divine order of his creation).
- O. What are we to do about it?
1. The answer is simple – to STAND.
  2. To stand on the truth, always.
  3. To conduct ourselves, and to work and live in accordance with God's moral law – DO RIGHT! BE HONEST! BE TRUTHFUL! LOVE ONE ANOTHER! BE FAITHFUL! PREACH THE GOSPEL!