

WHO'S ON THE LORD'S SIDE? – Part 3

Are we truly on the Lord's side? If so, how can we prove it? To answer these questions we must go to [Exodus 32](#).

[Exodus 32:26–27](#)

²⁶ Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE? *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. ²⁷ And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, PUT EVERY MAN HIS SWORD BY HIS SIDE, *and* go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

According to this passage, the people “on the Lord's side” are the ones taking the **sword** and “putting it by their side.”

We said to you last time that this command to *take up the sword* can be understood as a command to arm ourselves with the word of God!

[Ephesians 6:17](#)

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the SWORD of the Spirit, which is the WORD OF GOD:

Moreover, when we take up the “sword” (word of God) we are to use it to put to death the flesh (our carnal man/mind).

[Romans 12:2](#)

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Renewing our mind is actually how we crucify (put to death) the flesh! Our ‘flesh’ represents our carnal (or worldly) desires.

[1 John 2:15–16](#)

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the LUST OF THE FLESH, and the LUST OF THE EYES, and the PRIDE OF LIFE, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Notice that our carnal desires include: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. The lust of the flesh represents our desire to DO what we want to do. The lust of the eyes represents our desire to HAVE what we want to have. And the pride of life represents our desire to BE what we want to be.

As long as these evil desires are abiding in us, the love of the Father (which is Jesus Christ) cannot be in us!

In addition to using the word to renew our minds, there's something else we must do with the word (sword) to prove we are truly on the Lord's side.

Exodus 32:27

²⁷ And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword **BY HIS SIDE**, *and* go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man **HIS BROTHER**, and every man **HIS COMPANION**, and every man **HIS NEIGHBOR**.

If we want to prove that we are on the Lord's side, and prove/achieve consecration (dedication), we must remove the sword from its sheath and put it by our side!

2 Corinthians 6:4–5

⁴ But in all *things* **APPROVING** ourselves as the **MINISTERS OF GOD**, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, ⁵ In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

In this passage, the Apostle Paul gives us a list of things that 'prove' or attest that he is a true servant or minister of God. He starts in verses 4 and 5 with a list of things he's had to suffer for the ministry. (This is a proof of his ministry because no servant is above his Master!)

In verse 7, he gives us a list of spiritual *weapons* that he has had to employ in service to God.

2 Corinthians 6:7

⁷ By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the **ARMOR** of righteousness on the **RIGHT HAND AND ON THE LEFT**,

(The word "armor" can be translated as *weapons*.) Therefore, not only can we know whether someone is truly *dedicated* to God by the things they suffer, we can also know whether they are dedicated to God by the *weapons* they employ! Moreover, notice where these weapons (armor) are located—on the right hand and on the left! In other words, they are **BY HIS SIDE**! To have one's weapons "by one's side" can mean that these weapons are not concealed. They are carried around openly!

If you truly want to know "who is on the Lord's side," then all you need to do is look for those who openly *show* that they are in possession of God's word.

(We all know that there are states where you are not allowed to openly carry a firearm. Meaning, if you carry your firearm in public, it must be *concealed*. But, did you know that there are other states where you are permitted to carry a firearm *unconcealed*? These are considered “open carry” states. Meaning, you can carry a firearm on the outside of your clothes, literally *on your hip!*)

We can make a similar distinction in the Church. There are some in the Church who try to *conceal* the word (sword), while there are others who carry it openly!

Matthew 10:32–35

³² Whosoever therefore shall CONFESS ME BEFORE MEN, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall DENY ME BEFORE MEN, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. ³⁴ Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a SWORD. ³⁵ For I am come to set a man at variance AGAINST HIS FATHER, and the DAUGHTER against her MOTHER, and the DAUGHTER IN LAW against her MOTHER IN LAW.

Jesus is here warning His disciples against not ‘openly’ confessing Him before men. Moreover, it is in this context that He reminds them of His mission. He states that He did not come to bring ‘peace’ on earth, but a ‘sword.’ In other words, His primary purpose for coming was NOT to preserve and promote peace. Instead, His primary purpose was to preserve and promote truth.

This is important because sometimes the truth acts like a ‘sword’ and brings conflict (war) into our relationships. However, if we assume that Jesus’ mission was to bring peace, then we may be tempted to do whatever it takes to avoid conflict, even if it means concealing (or not confessing) the truth! On the other hand, if we understand that Jesus’ primary objective was to bring a *sword*, then we’ll understand that we must do whatever it takes to preserve the truth, even if it means sacrificing our peace (friendships).

We must all come to grips with two things: 1) Truth will eventually create conflict with men, 2) we must never try to preserve peace (our friendship with men) at the expense of the truth!

Hebrews 12:14

¹⁴ FOLLOW PEACE with all *men*, AND HOLINESS, without which no man shall see the Lord:

This verse makes it clear that we are not to seek peace at ANY price. Instead, we are only to seek peace WITHIN the limits of doing what’s right (holiness). (Romans 12:18 “...as much AS IT LIES WITHIN YOU, live *peaceably* with all men”)

Now, when some people hear that Christ’s mission is to bring a “sword” they assume that it is their duty to bring attention to men’s sin, whether they find it in

the world or in the Church. (There are entire YouTube channels and websites dedicated to this kind of thing.)

However, when Christ said that He came to bring a sword this does NOT mean that the sword (truth) has to come from our mouth. In fact, God only uses a *small* number of people to openly rebuke others. (Usually they are people in a leadership roles.) For the rest of us, God has chosen that we use our *lives*, not our *mouths*, to bring the truth (or rebuke).

Ephesians 5:8–11

⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT: ⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather REPROVE THEM.

Now, when Paul says “reprove them,” he does not necessarily mean reprove them with our *words*.

Ephesians 5:12–13

¹² For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

Although Paul tells them not to “speak” of those things, he yet tells them to “reprove” those things. Therefore, it must be possible to reprove men’s sins without using our words! In fact, we spend too much time SPEAKING about the sins men commit in the dark (secret) and not enough time SHOWING them the light. In fact, the word “reprove” in **verse 13** means to expose or bring to the light.

When most people think of “exposing sin” they think of something we do with our words. Rarely do we think of “exposing sin” by our life. However, it’s much more effective to BE about it, than to SPEAK about it!