

Introduction

Something is wrong

1 Is Evil Real?

Eph. 5:15-16 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because **the days are evil**.

(1) Secularistic, naturalistic, materialistic = must conclude there is no such thing

+ As soon as objective evil exists, so does objective good. = God is real.

But as soon as we have to consider such horrors as ~~serial~~ serial killers, genocide, sexual abuse, and terrorism...we collectively come to only one conclusion - evil (I.e. 9/11)

(2) Our need to personify

- + Wolverine can heal
- + Superman is a son sent by a father to a fragile people
- + Batman is a martyr for the people of Gotham while being despised by the establishment
- + Thor is both God & man
- + Hulk is about transformation
- + Wonder Woman about man's inherent evil

Comic

Book

-
- + Lex Luthor is cunning
 - + Joker is an agent of chaos
 - + Scarecrow preys as a predator
 - + Mystique masquerades as good
 - + Loki the god of mischief

2. Why this series?

Every
verse

(1) Wrong church
+ Dad, migraine, journal, Kee
+ No knives, harley, electrical

(2) Biblical thinking is binary thinking:
+ Satan / Jesus
+ Demons / Angels
+ Hell / Heaven
+ World / Kingdom
+ Flesh / Spirit
+ Defeat / Victory
+ Creation / Creator
+ Male / Female
+ Slavery / Freedom
+ Dark / Light
+ Blind / Sight
+ Condemnation / Salvation

Non
binary
thinking?

(3) Behind The Veil & Under The Sun

(4) Dominion - real vs counterfeit

the power or right of governing and controlling a territory, institution or people.

(5) Every decision you make is a battle for dominion.

(6) What happens "under the sun" affects "behind the veil" (vice versa) (i.e. Job)

3 We're At War

(Eph 6:10-13)

(1) Definition

- "Spiritual warfare is a multilevel conflict between good and evil, initiated on the supernatural plane with the prehistoric rebellion of ~~I~~^{Satan}, and transferred onto the natural plane with the fall of man. Satan, man's adversary, continues to deceive and divert people from finding salvation in Jesus Christ, and to harass and hinder Christians through enticement to sin and exploitation of weaknesses. Because Satan is the ~~and~~ initiator of original sin, and because he is the 'god of this world,' spiritual warfare involves a constant multidimensional battle against the world (a system of ungodly values), the flesh (sin inherent to our humanity), and the devil (supernatural personification of evil). Warfare implies the likelihood of losses: eternal separation from God for the nonbeliever, and diminished effectiveness and suffering for the believer."⁴

(2) Expectation

- + Hold ideas & presuppositions w/ an open hand.
- + Most ideas about dominion have their roots in the occult folklore, or pop culture.
- + Most spiritual warfare thinking in the church today has zero biblical support or historical precedent.

I. Spiritual Warfare Occurrences

1. Old Testament Subtlety

- (1) Only about 15 occurrences
- (2) Pentateuch = 3
+ 2 Genesis + 1 Deut.
- (3) A Genesis 3 subtlety
- (4) **Emphasis** = God's sovereignty
over evil

Judges 9:22-23 - Abimelech ruled over Israel three years. And God **sent** an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem; and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech...

1 Samuel 16:14 - Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit **from the LORD** tormented him.

1 Kings 22:21-23 - Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.' And the LORD said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.' Now therefore behold, **the LORD has put** a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has declared disaster for you."

- (5) **Job 1:7-12** helps us understand:
- + God initiates conversation
 - + God asks where he's been
 - + God grants permission
 - + Satan is accountable to God

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 - So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, **a thorn was given me** in the flesh, a **messenger of Satan** to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times **I pleaded with the Lord** about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

(6) Normal Order of Operation:

- Sin has
subjugated
this world
to futility
- + God allows (sanctification)
 - + Satan acts (accusation)
 - + We decide (temptation)
 - + God's gives license
 - + Satan baits hook
 - + We bite

2. New Testament Intensity

(1) Gospels & Acts =
dial turns up to "11" (cross)

(2) **Emphasis** = the destruction
of the church by making
Christians **less effective**
& non-Christians **less receptive**

(3) Christians

- + Sin + Division + False doctrine
- + Persecution

(4) Non-Christians

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

II. Spiritual Warfare Takeaways

1. We have enemies (v11, 13, 18)

(1) The World (v13)

(2) The Flesh (v18)

(3) The Devil (v11-12)

- More than "flesh"

- Over this "present darkness"
(world)

2. We have weapons (v11-12)

(1) Obedience (v10, 11, 13, 14, 15
+ "wrestle" 16, 17)

+ "in the Lord"

+ "in His might"

+ put on

+ take up

+ fasten

+ stand

Eph 6

(2) Word (v17)

+ Esp Gospel (v19)

(3) Prayer (v18)

+ Learn offensively

III. Spiritual Warfare Prominence

1. Emphasize not idolize

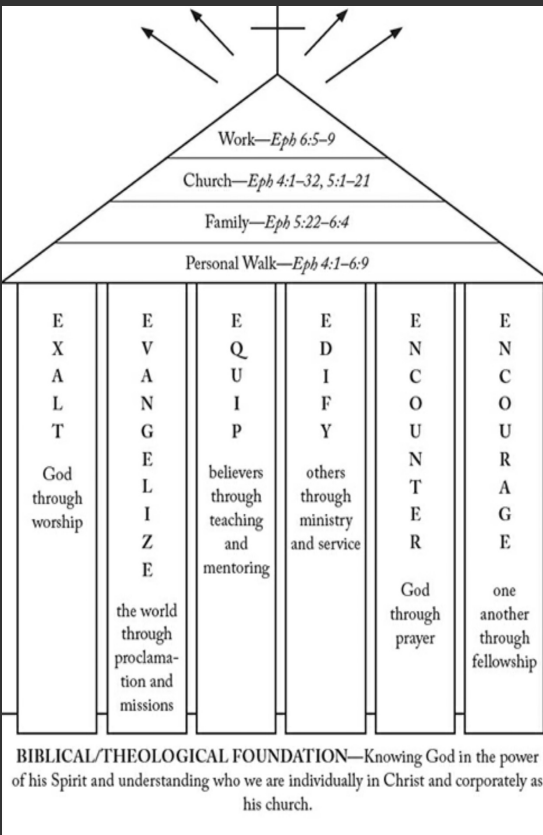
Luke 10:19-20 - Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

(1) Cessationalism
Sensationalism

2. Study what is authentic not counterfeit

(1) Healthy church diagram

(2) Spiritual attack accordingly



PURPOSE	ATTACK
Exalt God through worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • idolatry: exalting false gods • division: fostering worship wars
Evangelize the world through proclamation and missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • false teaching: e.g., "Jesus is not the only way to God." • sin: believers living like the world so the world rejects our message • persecution: creating fear in both the witness and the non-believer
Equip believers through teaching and mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sin of omission: failing to disciple at all • false teaching: e.g., teaching wrong doctrine to new believers
Edify one another through ministry and service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pride: believers refusing to serve others, or doing so only for one's glory
Encounter God through prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • idolatry of the self: promoting prayerlessness and self-dependence • sin: living a lifestyle that hinders the effectiveness of prayer
Encourage one another through fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • division: creating internal church conflict

Conclusion (Eph. 6:18b)

1. Some of you:
(1) Depression, anger, sick, heavy unforgiving, bitter,

2. Learning to "Keep alert" as everything is a war for dominion

(1) Getting to church
+ Anthem needs a wake-up

(2) Marriage Parenting

(3) Every:

+ church fight

+ Half truth

+ Excuse for not serving

+ Event in your calendar

+ Swipe of a screen

2. Jesus has won the war

(1) So don't be afraid

Jude 1:25 - to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, **dominion**, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.