

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #37

“Defeating the 5th Column”

Part One

I. Introduction

We are now more than 9 months into our War of the Worldviews series;
We have shown the warfare we must wage against God’s enemies;
Socialism, Darwinism (or Evolution), Relativism (What is Truth?)
These are great enemies of the Gospel of the Kingdom;
But they are mostly *external* threats; they are *outside* the Church.
But now we will switch gears to say this...

**The greatest enemies of the Church are not *outside* the Church;
They are *inside* the Church!**

We will call these messages, “Defeating the 5th Column”.

The title begs the question....

A. What IS a “5th Column?”

1. The 5th Column refers to clandestine, subversive agents who attempt to undermine a nation from within.

It is a military term, credited first used by Emilio Mola Vidal, a Nationalist general during the Spanish Civil War (1936–39). As four of his army columns moved on Madrid, the general referred to his militant supporters within the capital as his “fifth column,” intent on undermining the loyalist government from within.

2. The Encyclopedia Britannica says:

“The strategy of the 5th column is to infiltrate the system of the nation under attack and exploit the people by spreading rumors and misinformation by sabotage.”

3. One of history's greatest examples of a 5th column is the famous "Trojan horse".

B. The Trojan Horse

1. The story is found in an epic poem, The Iliad, written by the Greek poet Homer 700 years before the birth of Christ.

I remember reading the Classics Illustrate comic book when I was a teenager.

2. "The Iliad", describes the 10 year siege of the city of Troy by the armies of the Greek states led by King Agamemnon.

a. Frustrated by their inability to conquer the city from the outside, the Greeks formed a new plan to defeat the city from within

b. **They constructed a giant horse, large enough to hide a contingent of soldiers inside, and left it outside the city gates.**

3. The Trojans, assuming the Greeks had left it as a prize, eagerly pulled the horse inside the city and began to celebrate.

BUT WHAT THE TROJANS THOUGHT TO BE THEIR GREATEST VICTORY TURNED OUT TO BE THE "5TH COLUMN OF THEIR GREATEST ENEMY!"

4. During the night, the Greek soldiers emerged from the hollow belly of the horse, killed the sentries, and opened the gates to the city, allowing their army to easily enter in and conquer the mighty city of Troy.

5. The lesson is clear: When the Greeks could not bring down the city by attacking from the outside, from military columns to the north/south/east or west, they planted a "5th column" on the inside to bring down the city.

THIS IS WHY WE CALL CERTAIN KIND OF COMPUTER VIRUS A TROJAN HORSE; ONCE IT GETS INSIDE, IT DESTROYS THE WHOLE SYSTEM!

6. So we see the "5th Column" refers to the enemy that strikes from within.

C. The Wisdom of Cicero

1. The great Roman orator Marcus Tullius Cicero, 100 years before the birth of Christ, warned the Empire of the dangers of a 5th column within the city...

“A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious; but it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known, and he carries his banners openly.”

Cicero

a. Cicero described the enemy as a traitor....

“The traitor moves among those within the gates freely, his sly whispers rustling through the all the alleys, and heard in the very halls of government itself.”

Cicero

b. It’s been said that “America will never be destroyed from the outside”; the real enemy is the traitor within...

“He rots the soul of a nation. He works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of a city. He infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to be feared.”

Cicero, 43 B.C.

2. Political talk show host Michael Savage believes that the press and the news media, sometimes called the “4th Estate” is America’s 5th column...

“The 4th estate has become the 5th column.”

Michael Savage

a. Savage is saying that the greatest threat to America is not China, or Russia, or the North Koreans; it’s the misinformation and bias of the “fake news” media that poses our greatest threat.

3. But back on point. What lesson can the Church learn from Trojan horses and long-dead Roman senators? *What does all this have to do with you and me?*

3. The first of the “5th Columns” that undermines the Church from within is the enemy of “false doctrine” (or false teaching). The NT calls it “leaven”.

II. The First “5th Column”: The Leaven of False Doctrine (Teaching)

A. The Leaven Principle

1. Jesus warned His disciples about how the enemy works from the inside; but He never used the term “5th Column”; He used the term “leaven”.

Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

Matthew 16:5-6

2. The disciples were familiar with the word “leaven”; we might use the term “yeast” today...

A small pinch of yeast in a large batch of dough triggers a fermentation process that works slowly, silently, and gradually through the whole lump

a. But when Jesus warned them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, the disciples didn’t get it.

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."

8 But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?*" 9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? 10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up?

Matthew 16:7-10

b. How true even today! The church concerns itself with worldly things, (“we have no bread”), and misses the point altogether...the real problem is false teaching!

11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? — *but* to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matthew 16:11-12 NKJV

c. The great danger is not that the church has “no bread”; but that the “bread” she has has been “leavened” by the 5th column, the “leaven” of false doctrine that can ruin the whole lump!

3. 5 times in the New Testament warns us to beware of the “leaven” of false teaching;

- The leaven of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 16:12), which was legalism
- The leaven of the Sadducees, (Matthew 16:12), who did not believe in the resurrection
- The leaven of the Church at Corinth, (1 Corinthians 5:7), that tolerated a man in the church to continually commit sexual sin and go uncorrected

**Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough?
1 Corinthians 5:7 NLT**

- The leaven of Herod, (Mark 8:15), a life of sensuality and corruption
- The leaven was in the Galatian churches, where they had fallen away from the Gospel of salvation by faith alone; where they had added circumcision as a condition of salvation and all the churches had been corrupted; so Paul gives the Galatians the same warning he gave the Corinthians...

**A little leaven leavens the whole lump.
Galatians 5:9**

4. False teaching comes into the church, like a 5th column; it looks great, like the Trojan horse; but once it gets inside it brings a downfall.

**Ever buy an apple with just one rotten spot?
What does it look like 3 days later?**

B. Things We Have Seen

Testimony: We have seen the dangers of false doctrine firsthand

1. Walt and Melissa were on fire for God. A great young couple. Walt worked at a service station. He would read his Bible on his lunch breaks and pray for the customers at every opportunity. They never missed church. But the church

was teaching a strong message about faith where you “can have what you say.” So they began to “confess” a Florida vacation. They were taught to “act” on their faith so they bought new vacation clothes and luggage and set the dates. But as the departure date got closer, their car broke down and they had NO MONEY to go. But they never wavered. When the day of departure arrived, they packed their suitcases and Walt went out and sat in the driveway, waiting for God to send them the money they needed and a car to get them there. Nobody came. No money either. Their faith was shattered. And after that, we lost track of them. We have no idea if they ever recovered.

a. There are other stories where the results were worse; where children who were sick actually went on to die because their parents, (who were believing they would be healed), had not taken them to the Doctor.

4. Today there is a perversion of the doctrines of grace running through the Body of Christ in America. Dr. Michael Brown calls it “hyper-grace”.

For there are certain men crept in unawares...ungodly men who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness...and deny the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 4

- Unmarried couples live together; but they never miss church on Sundays
- Some Pastors love to remind their congregations that they are not under law, but under grace, (which is true). But then they add the leaven: that if they are saved, their sins are all under the blood; even the ones they haven't committed yet; so the doctrine of holiness is never mentioned (which is fatal!)
- On the other end, some congregations get caught up with legalism; focusing on externals: you can't have a beer, got to the movies or eat certain foods. Jesus dealt with this warning His disciples to leave these teachers alone...

They are the blind leading the blind and they both shall fall into the ditch.

Matthew 15:14

(26 of the 27 books in the New Testament warn against false teaching!)

a. Jesus went on to say that the things that defile a man come from *within* the man.

2. One lie, one false teaching, can leaven the whole lump.

III. Conclusion

A. Review: So What Have We Said?

**The greatest enemies of the Church are not *outside* the Church;
They are *inside* the Church!**

1. In this little miniseries, we call these enemies the “5th Column”:

Like the Trojan horse, where the enemy had failed to win the war from the outside of the city, prevailed by getting on the inside of the city.

2. The first “5th Column” on the inside of the Church is false doctrine or false teaching.

3. **The greatest danger to God’s sheep are the wolves *inside* the flock;** it is the leaven of false doctrine *within* the bread.

4. So what is the solution? There is Good News. There is another kind of leaven...

B. The Leaven of the Kingdom

1. We saw where 5 times in the New Testament that false teaching is evil leaven within; but there is one notable time where God turns the tables on the enemy. Something Jesus said....

**He spoke another parable to them. The Kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman hid in three measures of meal, until the whole was leavened.
Matthew 13:33**

2. We’re back to where we began: with the Kingdom of God...

The most important subject in the Bible
The Kingdom of God that is “now” and “not yet”...

3. **The leaven of the Kingdom has been sown into the earth;** it is a present reality; it is now at work, secretly, silently expanding until the whole world will be under its influence!

4. God has His own “5th Column”; the Kingdom of God; it started small; like “a little leaven”; but it will leaven the whole world before the end.

SO WHAT HINDERETH? WHAT HOLDS IT BACK?
THERE IS ONE PARTICULAR FALSE DOCTRINE, ONE ‘5TH COLUMN’
THAT HAS HINDERED THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE KINGDOM
MORE THAN ANY OTHER...
AND NEXT WEEK WE WILL SHOW YOU WHAT IT IS!

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