

OBEY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #5

I. Introduction

I want to continue our teaching series taken from the word of the Lord to His church in this hour: We must “Obey God-Defy Tyrants”; as in the Apostle’s response to the civil authority’s command not to teach in the name of Jesus...

Acts 5:9

**But Peter and the other apostles answered,
“We ought to obey God rather than men.”**

Today, in America, we are witnessing the rise of tyrannical civil authorities that are attacking in ways we have never witnessed before. Remember...

“Tyrant”

A cruel and oppressive ruler who governs without restriction.

When a group of tyrants get elected to public office, you have...

“Tyrannical Government”

Political authority that exerts harsh, cruel, or unjust control over the people.

This is an hour where we must be willing to run the risk of defying these tyrants, publicly, without fear of offence, as our forefathers did.

Patrick Henry

“Should I keep back my opinions at such a time as this, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself guilty of treason toward my country and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.”

This is also an hour where we must be willing to run the risk of offending even some within the Christian community who would accuse us as alarmists.

David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

People say, “Do not be negative; let us be positive; let us just preach the simple gospel”. But the Bible is full of negatives, full of warnings.

(Some of the Apostle Paul’s sternest warnings pertain to my topic tonight)

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the *wiles* of the devil. (NKJV)

... stand firm against all *strategies* of the devil. (NLT)

...stand against the *tactics* of the devil. (HCSB)

2 Corinthians 2:11

... lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his *devices*.

...for we are not ignorant of his *schemes* (NASB/NIV/NLT)

One of the great challenges in the Church today is that many American Christians are not ‘standing firm’ against the wiles, strategies, and tactics of the devil because they simply don’t know what they are; nor do they realize how these same tactics are driving the rise of tyranny in our own civil government.

It’s time to wake up!

What we need to know is the title for tonight’s teaching is...

“The Tactics of Tyrants”

We are in a spiritual war for the soul of America.

In every war there is an objective and tactics to achieve the objective.

The ultimate objective of all tyranny is power and control.

So now we need to know the tactics tyrant’s employ for getting to their goal.

“Tactics”

Actions or strategy carefully planned to achieve a specified end.

Remember: Our war is not political—it’s spiritual—and we need spiritual armor.

Ephesians 6:11-12 (HCSB)

Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

Our real enemy is not the tyrants; it is the demonic spirits driving the tyrants.

Ephesians 6:13 (HCSB)

This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

To take our stand against the tactics of the Devil, we need to discern the tactics

Theme

All the tactics of tyrants and tyrannical governments reflect the nature of Satan, the world's first and greatest tyrant.

2 Points

They operate in a spirit of pride; they depend upon deception

II. The Tactics of Tyrants

A. First Tactic of Tyrants: Operate in a Spirit of Pride

1. All tyrants and tyrannical governments begin with the spirit of PRIDE.

Mike Bennett

The best example of pride would be Lucifer himself, the one who became Satan. From the time of his creation, he had always lived under God's perfect rule. Yet eventually his heart was lifted up with pride, and he rebelled.

- a. Many Bible scholars believe that the first sin in creation was committed before the creation of man, described in...

Isaiah 14:12

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!

Isaiah 14:13-14

For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

2. Satan saw himself as superior to all the other creatures; he actually believed himself qualified to be God; and this same satanic spirit of pride has possessed all the tyrannical political powers of history toward...

"Totalitarianism"

A system of government that is centralized and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state

a. The top-down system of this kind of government begins where Satan began; with the idea that he had a god-like right to rule over the people.

3. Satan's assault on God's right to rule was madness! And indeed, some Christian thinkers have described totalitarianism as a 'mass psychosis'.

Mass Psychosis

An epidemic of madness that occurs when a large portion of society loses touch with reality and descends into delusions.

Academy of Ideas

The mass psychosis of totalitarianism begins with small group of powerful people who come under the delusion that they have the right to rule the people.

Academy of Ideas

The individuals that make up this class, be it politicians, bureaucrats, or crony-capitalists, are very prone to delusions that augment their power. And no delusion is more attractive to the power hungry than the delusion that they can and should control and dominate a society.

Academy of Ideas

When a ruling elite becomes possessed by a political ideology of this sort, be it Communism, Fascism, or technocracy, the next step is to induce a population into the accepting their rule by infecting them with the mass psychosis of totalitarianism. This psychosis has been induced many times throughout history.

a. Think of the Roman Caesars; or the hypnotic effect Adolf Hitler had on the people of Germany. Deluded leaders leading deluded people. With virtually everyone descending into madness.

Hannah Arendt

Totalitarianism is an attempted transformation of human nature itself.

4. We need to know that when a nation falls into a satanic system of tyrannical government, the very soul of the nation comes under attack.

Arthur Versluis, Professor of Religious studies at Michigan State tells us how it happens...

Arthur Versluis

In a totalitarian society, the population is divided into two groups, the rulers and the ruled, and both groups undergo a psychological transformation. The rulers are elevated to an almost god-like status.

Arthur Versluis

The masses, on the other hand, are transformed into the dependent subjects of these pathological rulers and take on a psychologically regressed and childlike status.

a. We are witnessing all this today: prideful rulers 'elevated to an almost godlike status'. (Government overreach into every area of life)

b. On the other hand, the masses 'transformed into the dependent subjects of these pathological rulers' who have 'taken on a psychologically regressed and childlike status'. (Every-increasing dependency on Government)

5. Back in 1956, Joost Meerloo wrote a book called “The Rape of the Mind”; it was an analysis of how totalitarian states practice brainwashing techniques and mind control by inducing delusion:

Delusion

A false belief that is resistant to confrontation with actual facts

Joost Meerloo, “The Rape of the Mind”

Totalitarianism is built upon and sustained by delusions; for only deluded men and women regress to the childlike status of obedient and submissive subjects, and hand over complete control of their lives to politicians and bureaucrats. And only a deluded ruling class will believe that they possess the knowledge, wisdom, and acumen to completely control society in a top-down manner.

Joost Meerloo, “The Rape of the Mind”

And only when under the spell of delusions would anyone believe that a society composed of power-hungry rulers, on the one hand, and a psychologically regressed population on the other, will lead to anything other than mass suffering and social ruin.

6. Isn't this where we are today? Deluded leaders leading deluded people? With at least half the population voting for politicians who seem so sincere, even as they promote that violate the word of God!

a. Thomas Sowell recently wrote a book about the PRIDE of these arrogant political personalities who consider themselves ‘the anointed’.

Thomas Sowell

“The Vision of the Anointed: Self-Congratulation as a Basis for Social Policy”

People are never more sincere than when they assume their own moral superiority. They believe problems exist because others are not as wise or as virtuous as themselves, the “anointed”.

b. One of the tactics of tyrants is to present themselves as more loving, more caring and compassionate than those who oppose them.

Thomas Sowell

The contemporary anointed and those who follow them make much of their ‘compassion’ for the less fortunate, their ‘concern’ for the environment, and of being ‘anti-war’—as if these characteristics distinguish them from people with opposite views on public policy.

c. As if their opponents don’t care about the climate or have no compassion for the poor, or believe in equal justice for all! Arrogance. Pride.

d. These tyrants even have their own version of the Christian crusades; in their PRIDE, they proclaim that they can deliver us from economic hardship, racial prejudice, social injustice; they even tell us they can save the planet!

Thomas Sowell

What all these different kinds of crusades have in common is their moral exaltation of the anointed above others, who are to have their very different views nullified and superseded by the views of the anointed, imposed via the power of government.

e. The prideful spirit of a tyrant sees itself so superior to other mere mortals that no debate is allowed; and those who disagree must be dealt with.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (Chap-oh’)

Evil preaches tolerance until it is dominant. Then it tries to silence the good.

f. Tyrants seek to silence all dissent because they have a satanic spirit of pride; this is why they always speak down to the people who oppose them as if we are stupid. But the truth is...

Franz Kafka, Czech novelist

It is only because of their stupidity that they are able to be so sure of themselves.

Review point 1: The first tactic of tyrants is to operate in a spirit of pride.

B. Second Tactic of Tyrants: They Depend Upon Deception

1. Tyrants reflect the spirit of Satan by dealing in deception.

Revelation 12:9 (HCSB)

So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, *the one who deceives the whole world*. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.

2. Always remember: The goal is control; the tactic is deception.

Deception

Actions or schemes fabricated to mislead or delude someone into errantly believing a lie or inaccuracy

3. Tyrants use the tactic of deception by creating chaos; they create a crisis so as to deceive the citizens into believing that only they can save us.

a. This is the ‘Hegelian Dialectic’: Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis: Create a crisis-offer the solution-present yourself as the solution. An old tool of tyrants.

Joost Meerloo, “The Rape of the Mind”

It is simply a matter of reorganizing and manipulating collective feelings in a proper way.

b. The goal is control; especially over the minds of the people by a kind of brainwashing known as...

Menticide

A systematic and intentional undermining of a person's conscious mind; brainwashing; a killing of the mind

Joost Meerloo, “The Rape of the Mind”

Menticide is an old crime against the human mind and spirit but systematized in a new way. It is an organized system of psychological intervention and judicial perversion through which a ruling class can imprint their own opportunistic thoughts upon the minds of those which they plan to use and destroy.

Joost Meerloo, “The Rape of the Mind”

Priming a population for the crime of menticide begins with the sowing of fear so as to place a population into a state of panic that primes them for a descent into the delusionary beliefs of a psychosis.

- **Fear of the virus**
- **Fear of climate change**
- **Fear of overpopulation**

c. Meerloo says tyrannists use a 'waves of terror' technique on the people; creating one continual crisis after another.

d. Herman Goering, one of Hitler's most heinous henchmen said...

Hermann Goering

"Getting the support of the people is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and... they will follow their leader. Just make the people afraid, and they will do whatever you want, in order to feel safe again. This works in every nation."

III. Close: Review

Christians are called to stand against the wiles, strategies & tactics of the devil:

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the *wiles* of the devil. (NKJV)

(Notice how our whole series is summed up here: Obey God-Defy Tyrants)

... stand firm against all *strategies* of the devil. (NLT)

...stand against the *tactics* of the devil. (HCSB)

Why?

2 Corinthians 2:11

... lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his *devices*.

...for we are not ignorant of his *schemes* (NASB/NIV/NLT)

We cannot stand against the tactics of the devil if we don't know what they are.

Theme

All the tactics of tyrants and tyrannical governments reflect the nature of Satan, the world's first and greatest tyrant.

**So we looked at the 2 primary tactics of tyrants and tyrannical governments/
They operate in Pride; they depend upon Deception**

Like Satan, tyrants see themselves as superior to others, with a right to rule others. Like Satan, though deceived themselves, they maintain their power to control others by deception.

The tyrants must be defied! Just as in the days of our founding fathers.

Thomas Paine

Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly:

Thomas Paine

It is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated.

How much will modern Americans Christians fight for our God-given freedom?
How much will we fight?

Abraham Kuyper, "Sphere Sovereignty"

Right here is the sore spot. In any successful attack on freedom the state can only be an accomplice. The *chief* culprit is the citizen who forgets his duty, wastes away his strength in the sleep of sin and sensual pleasure, and so loses the power of his own initiative.

Closing Prayer for America

Ephesians 5:11-14

Title