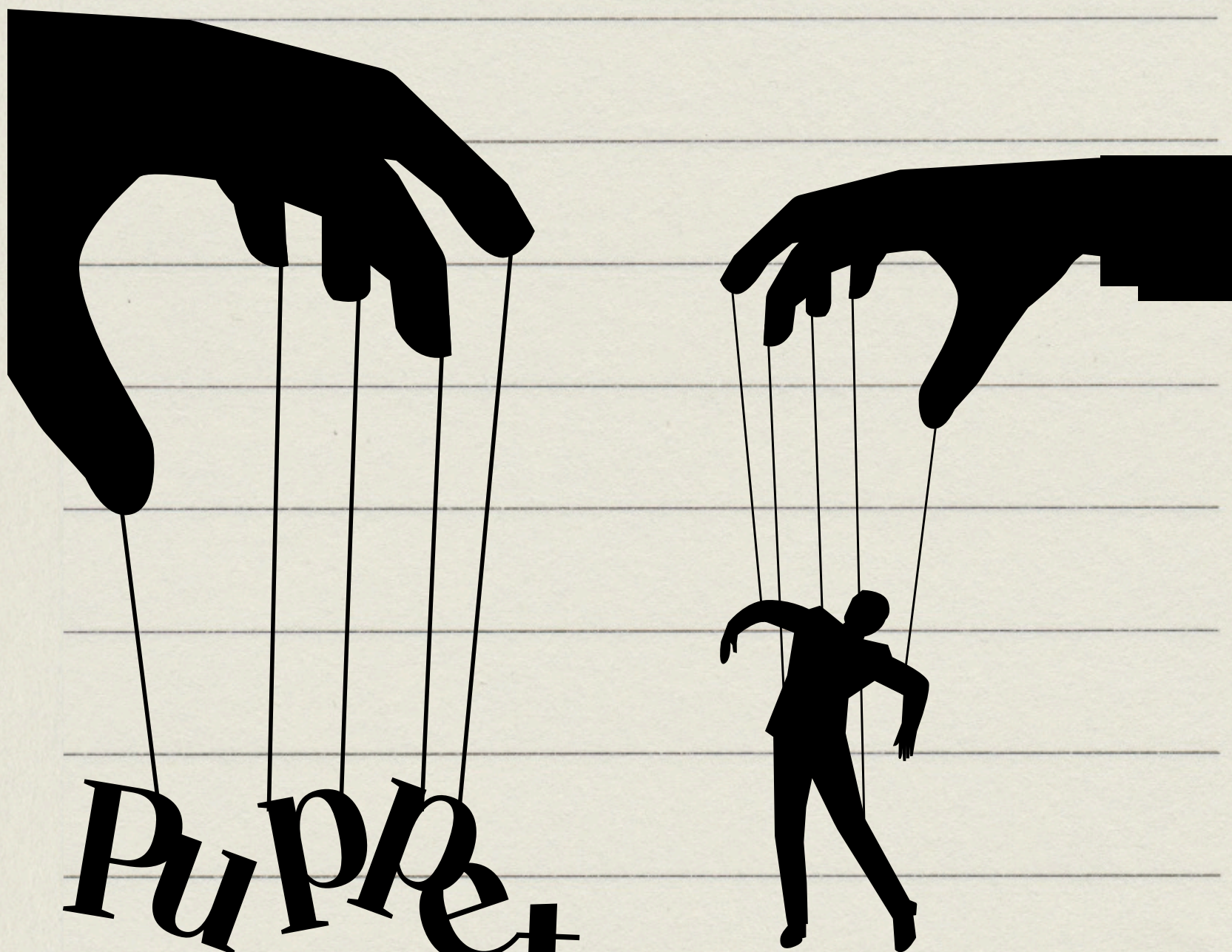


## Sunday Sermon Recap

PROPER EXPECTATIONS :



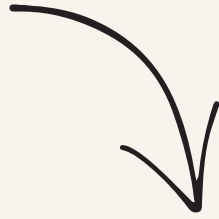
# Puppet Master

pt.1

*Spiritual Wickedness*



We are fighting something that is  
supernatural, that cannot be seen...




<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and  
blood [contending only with physical  
opponents], **but** against the rulers, against the  
*powers*, against the *world forces of this*  
*[present] darkness*, against the spiritual forces  
of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural)  
places.

Ephesians 6: 12

What does Paul mean by “**Rulers?**”

This refers to the organized high level spiritual forces that influence the darkness and the worldly shifts in society

- It is *naive* for us to believe the enemy and his followers are not organized...  *structure requires intentionality*
- High level demonic coordination **requires** a system, for if there was no structure, satan's schemes would be ineffective

### **Puppet Masters**

This implies **manipulation** (aka witchcraft)...

Secrecy and power behind the scenes  
affecting the larger picture resulting in  
cultural or personal shifts due to this  
external influence



## Recent Patterns in Society indicate:

*When two things come and rub off on each other*

1. Synchronism is on the rise

a. with many Americans mixing

various spiritual beliefs

*moving towards a personalized spiritual practice focused on happiness*

2. There is a redefining of God reducing

*creating a more accepting, less demanding god*

the appeal of churches that emphasize

moral disciplines and Biblical truths

3. Christianity is stable but plateauing at

lower rates with each generation

4. Many are retaining spiritual beliefs but

fewer are abiding by religious

*Like a soul and the belief in an afterlife*

institutions

*driving churches to substitute the Word of God with spiritual explorations to draw in more people*



*to the point that the church leans  
more on people, neglecting the  
spiritual component*

5. Churches are focusing so much on counseling, emotional wellness, and wholistic healing that Christ is completely out of the conversation

6. Economic pressures on culture leading churches to close *causing the churches to perform to incentivize is congregation to give*

7. Family and social redefinitions causing negligence on true Biblical teachings *forsaking Christ's Lordship to maintain number of members*

8. Political and social polarization have influenced church engagement

*preaching a gospel of grievance to keep their churches full*

*many churches grew exponentially by engaging in this polarizing language so much so that it is now the center of their message*

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father [but He is not], you would love and recognize Me, for I came from God [out of His very presence] and have arrived here. For I have not even come on My own initiative [as self-appointed], but He [is the One who] sent Me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you misunderstand what I am saying? It is because [your spiritual ears are deaf and] you are unable to hear [the truth of] My word. <sup>44</sup> **You are of your father the devil**, and it is *your will* to practice the desires [which are characteristic] of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar and the father of lies and half-truths.

John 8:42-44



1 John 3:15

To hate someone is **equivalent** to murder ↘

So satan has been a *hater* from the beginning...

All of these forces are trying to *disconnect* us

from **Christ**

↖ And His ordained institution  
(the church)