

"It Is Not About Me"

Characteristics Of The Luciferian Spirit In The Church Today

Ezekiel 28:11-15 "Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹² "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:

"You were the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

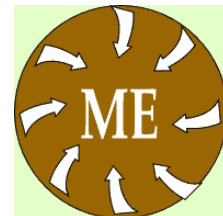
¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

¹⁴ "You were the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you."

Notice the terms "gold" and "pipes"

- Refers to money & Music
- "Iniquity" means: "Unrighteousness; *known sin*"



Two things Satan uses the most to cause strife in the church: Finances & Worship

Musicians are artists and are the most creative among us. Most, if not all, have the melancholy temperament. Melancholy's can be introspective, which can be positive *and* negative:

Positive: when it comes to personal growth and an attitude of excellence.

Negative: when it becomes too self conscious and focuses on self, self pity, depression, moodiness, etc. Some of the most brilliant, yet self absorbed, people can be actors and musicians.

Examples Of When A Luciferian Spirit Is In A Church:

1. Self Absorption:

Isaiah 14:12-15 "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!

¹³ 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;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.'

¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.



Lucifer Heart Issues: The five "I" s. The devil was preoccupied with himself and his ambitions.

- We must remember *Who* we are to worship - not people nor their gifts:
During the triumphal entry, if the donkey Jesus was riding upon thought the praises were for Him, instead of Jesus, he would have been sorely mistaken. His job (as ours is), was not to receive the praise, but to *lift up* Jesus.
 - I witnessed worship team that was one of the most talented I had seen. They were good-and they knew it.
After awhile it was obvious they were seeking their own adulation, *not* the worship of Jesus.
- We are here to love people and appreciate their giftings of being a musicians and singers, but we are not here to coddle them and let them operate in unrighteousness. Lucifer lost his place of leadership on the "worship team" in heaven because of iniquity. Some pastors are intimidated from dealing with members of the worship team because they are afraid of losing their talent or causing a split in the church.
- Worship is not meant to benefit us, but to lift up *Jesus*. **It is all about Him.** I am thankful that we benefit from it also, but we must remember **He** is our priority.
- People ought to realize it is a *privilege* to be on a worship team - It is an avenue to use our talents and voices to bring glory to God. It is no trivial or small matter.
- It is important a worship team not turn into a soap opera of strife where the focus is no longer lifting up Jesus and advancing His kingdom.

2. Competition and Jealously

Lucifer was talented and beautiful but tried to compete with God. God doesn't share his glory and Lucifer lost his position and ministry.

Philippians 2:1-4 "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Competition I've Seen In The Church:

- When someone comes into the church who plays the same instrument you do, or sings better than you do. Does that upset you?
- When a worship leader competes with the pastor of a church. Not enough songs, not long enough, not spiritual enough, etc. Does God honor that type of attitude?
- When one of your peers or subordinates is promoted to a position above you. Does your mind say, "I was here first?"

3. An Overly Critical Spirit (An Accusing Spirit):

Revelation 12:10-11 "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

Accuse Defined: To speak openly against, to condemn or accuse mainly in a legal sense. Elsewhere in Bible it means to knock down, hurt badly, put down.

- This accusing spirit is very critical under the guise of being truthful, as if is trying to make the church better. A Critical person puts others down, focuses and camps out of the negative, causing division in the body. They discourage and condemn rather than encourage and provide hope.
- Godly exhortation and rebuke is different. It will deal with issues by confronting and dealing with people, then restoring them, moving the individual and church forward. Godly exhortation brings restoration.

Mark 14:5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply."

Criticize Defined: to be enraged, indignant, to express indignation against someone; to murmur against, blame, scold, rebuke harshly, exhibit irritation, to snort with anger

- Be careful: Those you are criticizing Jesus may be praising! This woman's deed was to be a memorial forever.
- You kill the spirit by being overly critical (especially children)
 - I knew a man who criticized his son on a constant basis. He could never please his dad - He eventually committed suicide.
- When we correct we need to do it in a spirit of helping people. You attract more bees with honey than with vinegar. I have learned If you pull one feather out, put two more back in.

If You Are On the Receiving End of Criticism (Just Or Unjust):

- Learn from the truth of it. I have endeavored to be teachable in my life. I have found that with every criticism I have received, even when the person's motive were wrong, I could learn from it. There is usually some grain of truth in it.
- Don't receive the negative spirit in which it is spoken. I have had people speak the truth, but in a wrong spirit. I agree with the truth, but not with the attitude. It may be necessary to rebuke the spirit behind the attack.
- Apply the Blood - repent and apply forgiveness & Testify of the victories in your life (focus on the positive)
- Protect your leaders from a critical spirit. One of the ways God protects leaders in a church from the spirit of accusation is to require two or three witnesses (concerning moral sin). Leaders are the biggest target for accusation:

1 Timothy 5:19 "Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses."

4. A Campaigning Political Spirit of Strife In the Church:

Revelation 12:4 "His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

Lucifer was a persuasive and charismatic crusader - He deceived a third of heaven!

I have been around the block a few times and I am alarmed when someone comes to me with the wording "Other people agree with me" to boaster their position. That is the wrong way to approach me, and is not the way to win friends and influence pastors.

VLC's No campaigning Rule: If you have an issue with me or this church speak directly to me, not 10 other people before it reaches me. This quenches rumors and strife. I have an open door policy. Whether I agree with you or not I will listen to you.



Rumor Mill:

In the computer world companies will trace the source of that virus and determine what e-mail or computer it came from. In the church world we have strife viruses called rumors, "Somebody said ..." or "a group of people are saying ..." The best way to quench that strife is to go to the source of who those people are speaking. Many times when I talk to those people they say, "I didn't say that", or "I did not mean that at all". It closes the door on the spirit of strife and closes the rumor mill.

If you approach me disgruntled saying that other people feel the same way, I will ask you to provide me the names of those people. "I can't share that. These people came to me in confidence and trust me."

If a person will not reveal who said something causing innuendo then I have to assume:

- #1. They are the spokesperson for this campaign.
- #2. They are operating in subterfuge and causing strife in the body.

VLC No Secrets Policy: If something affects the unity and spiritual life of this body there are no secrets - The pastor will know.

We have no secrets rule in our home to protect our kids. If someone comes to my kids and says, "Don't tell your parents". That is the first thing they will do.

Simple Question to Determine What the Pastor Needs to Know:

Q) Does it affect the spiritual life of a person or of the unity and health of this body?

A) If it does I need to know it. I don't want to know about silly gossip, someone's irritations, personal weaknesses and negativity about others, etc.

- Don't ever promise somebody you will not tell the pastor. Tell them, "I can't promise you that. If the pastor needs to know I will tell him."
- Don't get mad at leadership if they tell me something that affects the spiritual life of this body.
- If something harmful happens to this church or to one of our members because someone withheld information I needed to know, I will hold them personally responsible before God.

The motivation of strife is to destroy the work of God.

James 3:16 "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

AMP For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition), there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil and vile practices."



Personal Example:

In a previous church we were members, of a friend of ours came against our pastor behind his back. They were not outwardly mean, but they subtly campaigned against him and had a group that agreed with them. They would share it at fellowship events and social situations they held at their house. I found myself getting caught up in it and I agreed with them. Finally, I realized I sinned. I came to my friend and repented. I told them I felt like they should not share this information and I should have not entertained it. I told them I would not be able to fellowship with them if this continued. I went to the pastor and confessed my sins; I spilled the beans on the conspiracy that was taking place behind his back. He forgave me and appreciated my honesty. It broke the campaign of strife that was started against our pastor. Unfortunately the person who originated the problem had caused some form of strife in every church they were a part since.

Solution:

1. Do not to tolerate unrighteousness on a leadership or worship team. One pastor friend considers people on the worship team to be elders in his church. That is how important it is to him.
2. Make a firm decision that your church will not be controlled and held hostage by bad attitudes or giftings of other people.
3. Pray for our leadership and our worship team. They are a vitally important part of the church family. Bind the Luciferian of spirit of strife, confusion and every evil work.
4. Speak directly with your Pastor if you have an issue about something. They need feedback from other perspectives whether they agree or not. When people have different views or disagree with me it makes me think about an issue more thoroughly with prayer. Sometimes I miss God and am wrong. Having a difference of opinion is not a sin (it is human). Demanding your own way or you threatening that you will quit or cause strife *is* sin. Big babies are the ones who quit and take their toys home.



No Christians were harmed at the preaching of this message. **WARNING!** Do not try this without supervision. It is not recommended you present a sermon like this in an average church - You will be ridden out of town on a rail. I appreciate our above average people who love me even when I minister a humdinger like this one. They love the word!