

THE PLAGUE

Believers are strategically positioned in society, by God, to effect change and to bring forth Christian values in our judgments, lifestyles and decisions that impact our sphere of influence. We receive special training in churches and even have a language that is unknown to unbelievers and a book of doctrine and power that can not be deciphered without truly being one of us. We all receive special weapons training in spiritual warfare and learn close combat techniques in case we have to go one on one with the adversaries of God. We are, in effect, commandoes for the Lord with different mandates but one goal. That goal is to defeat the enemy on his own turf, hold the ground we take and to set all willing captives free and convert them into soldiers for the Lords side.

We should be easily winning this war easily but we are just holding the line because there is another battle raging within our camps with no enemy in sight **“But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed TARES among the wheat, and went his way.” (Matt. 13:25)**. The same soldiers who fought side by side are now using their weapons against each other. These fights sometime end with innocent believers and potential converts caught in the crossfire that will hobble and maim them for their spiritual lives. It is amazing how fast this plague of discord can spread and infect the whole group of assembled believers **“a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Galatians 5:9)**. How can people who can control atmospheres, heal grievous diseases, call invisible things to manifest and cause demons to tremble by the power of their presence now loose control of themselves and begin to turn on each other? This is an ancient plot of the devil to try to divide and conquer **“And if a kingdom be DIVIDED against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be DIVIDED against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:24-25)**. The name of this disease is intemperance and it is a lawless beast. Weak believers, carnal Christians and wolves in sheep’s clothing act as infected carriers who make the rest of the flock sick after interaction. The signs of the sickness are clear: A professed Christian will suddenly refuse to yield to the Holy Spirit and begins to give in constantly to his or her own emotions over the principles of God. They will fight any change, yield to no authority (temporal or spiritual) but themselves and believe that they know the exclusive will for the church and themselves **“There is a way that SEEMETH RIGHT unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25)**. Satan’s plan to ruin the church and damage her influence in the world is through lust for power and infighting. When a believer operates without temperance (**self control**) it does not matter to the enemy what he builds for Jesus because the devil knows that inordinate emotions and our lust to be seen have always destroyed men’s lives and tainted their good works before men. Satan can’t stop us but he doesn’t have to try. We are doing that for him with our adulterous scandals, financial debacles, cheating, lying and general tone of venom for each other. The church seems so angry with itself that it is no wonder that membership is falling all over the world. This must stop.

Be on the look out for this infection and be prepared to stop the spread of this deadly disease. Always use protection (The word of God) and do not be afraid to flee from the presence of infected friends and church members who show no desire to be cleansed. Tell infected members not to try to infect you with gossip or slander and walk away from groups that want to tear down what God has built as a beacon of light to the world. You can help fight this disease by staying clean and being an example even among the infected. **When you stand, you will find that there are more that be for you than they that are against you.**