

The Sin and Danger of Carnality (handout)

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Introduction

Our old nature:

- Is of the spirit of this world
- Is subject to the “god of this world”, the devil

Everytime we yield to carnality:

- We open ourselves up to a spirit of this world giving it opportunity to rule our spirit
- We become subject to our old master the devil allowing him to use us to promote his cause (Romans 6:16)

The spirit we bear will either be the Spirit of God or a spirit of this world.

We are commanded not to give any place to the old nature at any time or for any reason. (Ephesians 4:26-27)

Those who yield to the old nature:

1. Are in disobedience to the command of God ^{Ephesians 4:27}
2. Are no longer walking by faith ^{Romans 14:23 / James 3:15} (faith is obedience to the revealed will of God)
3. Grieve the Spirit of God ^{Ephesians 4:30}
4. Make themselves vulnerable to the spirit of this world and the power of the enemy ^{Eph 4:27 / II Tim 2:26 / I Peter 5:8}
5. Become a hindrance and a stumbling block to others ^{by bearing a spirit of this world that will fight against them}

The spirit we bear is everything. Prov 6:16-19 / Jer 4:4, 14 / Matt 16:19-20

I. Children of light yielding to darkness

A child of God can take on a spirit of this world

- Proverbs 16:2 ; Luke 9:55; Numbers 14:23-24; Psalm 51:10; James 3:14-16; James 4:4
- Beware of being defiled, deceived and overcome by a spirit of this world (II Corinthians 7:1; Jude 1:23)
- Beware lest the Lord find some unseen spot on our “wedding garment” and we be rejected of Him. Rev 19:7 ; Eph 5:27; II Peter 3:14.
- Hate any and every manifestation of the old nature and seek to be a “man of the Spirit” and a man of the Word.

II. Sin’s Strongholds

Sins yielded to can become strongholds. One of the hardest strongholds to conquer is the one that involves an appetite of the flesh. Develop a fear and hatred for that sin knowing that it will cost you your soul if it is not overcome. Watch and pray. Study and obey. Guard your eyes and mind with utmost diligence.

Here are 6 serious and deadly symptoms of sin in the heart.

1. Sin that has become a habitual practice.
2. Justifying self as good state all the while allowing sin
3. When sin often succeeds in obtaining the consent of the will.

4. When sin is fought only because of the consequences of that sin.
5. When trouble over a sin is a punishment from God.
6. When your sin has withstood some of God's dealings against it.

Unmortified sin:

1. Unmortified sin will rob us of peace and strength
2. Grieves the Spirit of God
3. Wounds afresh the Lord Jesus Christ
4. It will take away our usefulness in this generation. We will be barren.

III. The captive believer and our attitude toward him

(Amplified Bible) II Timothy 2:24-26—24 And the servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome (fighting and contending). Instead, he must be kindly to everyone and mild-tempered [preserving the bond of peace]; he must be a skilled and suitable teacher, patient and forbearing and willing to suffer wrong. 25 He must correct his opponents with courtesy and gentleness, in the hope that God may grant that they will repent and come to know the Truth [that they will perceive and recognize and become accurately acquainted with and acknowledge it],

(I Peter 5:8) The Lord has put a hedge about His people, but satan is looking for those who through sin and carnality leave a door open.

Carnality-sin will produce death & will not inherit the kingdom of God

If we are operating in the flesh and especially if we are carrying an ungodly spirit, we will be defiled and everything we say and do will be defiled. 2 Thessalonians 2:11,12; Romans 1:32; Galatians 5:19-24; Galatians 6:7,8

Your relationship with God is only as good as your worst relationship with your brothers and sisters in the Lord. — Steve Rhodes

If we continue to give place to him by yielding to carnality, his power and influence will eventually produce spiritual blindness and deception. II Thess 2:10-12; Romans 6:6; Hebrews 12:14-15

IV. A day of judgment

- There is a day of reckoning coming and We are now to judge ourselves that we be not judged on that day. (I Cor 11:31)
- Revelation 20: 11-15; Romans 14:12; 1 Corinthians 11:31
- Carnality is robbing the Church of power and anointing.

V. What is the Answer / Remedy?

1. Repent

- (Proverbs 28:13; II Chronicles 7:14) God's people must repent and turn from their "wicked ways"

2. Put off the old man

- The new man is not to be a covering for the old man.
- (Romans 13:12; Ephesians 4:22) **Strip yourselves of your old nature. Put on the new nature that is created in God's image and that bears His righteousness and holiness. Romans 13: 11-14; Colossians 3:8,9**

3. Put on the new man

- **Colossians 3:10-15; Isaiah 26:3,4; Ephesians 4:23,24**

4. Develop a Godly fear and hatred for sin/carnality

(Proverbs 28:14; Jude 1:23) As long as we maintain any respect or affection for carnality / sin, there will be no deliverance or overcoming.

5. Walk in the Spirit

6. Love and obey the Word of God

- Diligently watch for any word or direction the Lord would give you and obey it. Hebrews 3:12-13; Psalm 18:32; Philippians 4:4-9
 - **Moderation** = mildness, patience, yieldingness, gentleness, unwillingness to litigate or contend; meekness under provocation, readiness to forgive injuries, equity in the management of business, ... James 3:17,18
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