

House Cleaning Sunday November 06, 2011

In general, when we have a break (e.g. during Summer or Diwali/Dasarra holidays) we take some time to do some general house cleaning. Often we are surprised with the amount of unnecessary things we have gathered/collected. Often we don't even realize that these kinds of things have been "collecting", until we pause to do some serious house cleaning. Today, is house cleaning time – spiritually!

As a local church, we are the House of God.

The House of God

Paul warned of a phenomena in the last days: 1 Timothy 4:1

The spirit of Jezebel

We see an instance of this in the church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

We see a woman identified as Jezebel, posing as a prophetess, supposedly proclaiming "deeper truths" (which are nothing but the "depths of satan" or doctrines of demons) was able to "**teach and seduce**" God's people astray into immorality and idolatry. The immorality and idolatry seems to be more of a "spiritual" form of immorality and idolatry rather than natural, meaning that these people embraced something other than the living God.

To seduce means to lead into error.

The "Jezebel spirit" can work through a man or woman.

We as a local church should be on guard not to permit **teaching that seduces**...that leads people astray into immorality and idolatry...where peoples affections (immorality) and worship (idolatry) are taken over by something other than the true and living God.

The Religious spirit

We see this operating through the Pharisees/religious leaders during Jesus' time.

Jesus' was the Word who became flesh. He was the Son of God – and yet the Pharisees, the religious people did not recognize Him. In fact they opposed him.

The religious spirit has several characteristics:

- Self-deceiving: calling the truth a lie. **John 7:40-49** The fear of deception that keeps you from embracing the truth is a great deception in itself!
- Hypocritical: points out the speck in the other person, while ignoring the beam in one's own eye. **Matthew 7:3-5**
- Man pleasing: seeks honor from men instead of the honor that comes from God. John 5:44
- puts on a pretense of piety, self-righteousness or super spirituality (Matthew 23) instead of pursuing pure religion (James 1:26-27)

Have you as part of this local church given access to the "spirit of Jezebel" or a "religious spirit"? Stay on guard. Defend yourself against such "deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons" that Paul warned about.



The home

House cleaning in the home/family.

Genesis 18:19

Husbands are to be leaders in the home.

1 Corinthians 11:1-16

Only as the husband walks in submission to His head, that is Christ, can he expect his wife to walk in submission to him.

The husband has been given spiritual responsibility over his family to keep them under his protective covering because of demonic spirits that wish to bring deception into the home (2 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Timothy 2:14).

The individual life

Are there habits, behaviors, sins that we have "gathered" along – that actually are an hindrance to our walk with God?

Hebrews 12:1-2

Can we live in such a way that all we do can be out in the open – and we are unashamed of them?

John 3:19-20 1 John 1:7

1 Peter 4:17

Judgment must begin in the House of God





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