



VOL. 1

**BIBLICAL  
LEADERSHIP**

BY DAN LIRETTE

# Biblical Leadership (Vol. 1)

by Dan Lirette

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# 1- Know your enemy: What the Scriptures teach concerning the government of satan

*Ephesians 6:12 "because we have not the wrestling with blood and flesh, but with the principalities, with the authorities, with the world-rulers of the darkness of this age, with the spiritual things of the evil in the heavenly places*

Principality: <1,,746,arche> "beginning, government, rule," is used of supramundane beings who exercise rule, called "principalities

- This word paints demons as ruling in the invisible realm with Governmental precision. Whatever demons do is fully planned and considered; nothing undertaken by a demonic power is done without careful thought. Demons are masters at planning and executing an attack, first studying their enemy completely before sending out their troops to destroy their enemy. It's imperative that we trust fully in the Mind of Christ to know and battle against the plans of the devil against us.

Authorities: <A-1,Noun,1849,exousia> denotes "authority" (from the impersonal verb *exesti*, "it is lawful"). From the meaning of "leave or permission," or liberty of doing as one pleases, it passed to that of "the ability or strength with which one is endued," then to that of the "power of authority," the right to exercise power or "the power of rule or government," the power of one whose will and commands must be obeyed by others

- This word paints demons as having the power to perform what they plan as a Government. In other words, demonic beings have the "right" to exercise their plans against us if we're not surrendered to God and actively resisting the devil. Demons have permission to rule over humans who walk in the flesh – whether lost or saved – as only those who walk in the Spirit, actively, are no longer under the dominion of the enemy. If we're un-surrendered to God in an area of our life, that's the area that the devil has legal right over. Believers who indulge in unclean thoughts, habits and addictions are opening themselves up to be ruled in that area of their lives by demonic power.

Rulers: <3,,2888,kosmokrator> denotes "a ruler of this world" The context ("not against flesh and blood") shows that not earthly potentates are indicated, but spirit powers, who, under the permissive will of God, and in consequence of human sin, exercise satanic and therefore antagonistic authority over the world in its present condition of spiritual darkness and alienation from God.

- This word paints a picture of demons as being constantly in opposition to humans. For example, when a demon tempts you with what appears to be good and satisfying on the outside, the very core nature of the force bringing the temptation is one of absolute and complete and total hatred for you, desiring that you see temptation as something that will not hurt you in the long run but fulfill you in the short term. Demons and all that they offer will never ever be "for" your pleasure ... but always for your spiritual destruction. Temptation, when consistently embraced, becomes bondage. When consistently resisted, it ceases to be a temptation and victory is realized.

Spiritual: <A-1,Adjective,4152,pneumatikos> "always connotes the ideas of invisibility and of power. In the NT it is used as follows: (a) the angelic hosts, lower than God but higher in the scale of being than man in his natural state, are 'spiritual hosts'

- Demons know that they, being spiritual, can only defeat their human opponents if their human opponents walk in their "natural"- or fleshly – state. When a Believer chooses to walk in the flesh or does not understand how to walk in the Spirit and doesn't seek to know how, demons have the advantage. It is not only important to walk in the Spirit... it's essential if we're to win our spiritual battles. Because all battles we face are spiritual and only spiritual weapons will defeat spiritual beings. Victory can come only by

means of absolute and total surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Otherwise, we'll walk in defeat over and over and over again... all the days of our lives. Learning how to walk in the Spirit will ensure our spiritual victory each and every time... without fail!

Heavenly: <A-2,Adjective,2032,epouranios> "heavenly," what pertains to, or is in, heaven (epi, in the sense of "pertaining to," not here, "above")

- This word paints a picture of demons having their origin – and their power and authority – as being “from heaven” or “from above”. It denotes Governmental power or authority over and above the power and authority of humans. It denotes that demons have an advantage over those who are un-submitted to God. It denotes that demons are not “from” here... but from another place with other weapons that humans do not have or use unless they are saved and walk in the Spirit. The Bible says we're seated with Christ in heavenly places and as a result only those who appropriate by faith that promise from God will overcome all the power of the devil

Conclusion:

There are Believers today who walk free in many areas but in other areas they never seem to get the victory. Due to this, they often fail and fall into sin as a lifestyle pattern. They're up one day and down the next; they shout God's praises on Sunday but on Monday they're back to their filth... and they don't know how to get free. The first step is in realizing that they're under the very influence of demons and their own fleshly desires that they constantly give in to. Once they admit that their “habit” or thought pattern is a vile sin against God, then repentance is on the way! Repentance is acknowledging sin and turning from it in both thought, word and deed. Until smoking is seen as destroying God's temple, one will continue to be under demonic power. Until porn is seen as fornication and adultery, freedom will not come. Whatever the issue, demonic power will only be overcome through honest confession and a turning away from it. Jesus isn't looking to harm those in bondage; He desires to heal those in bondage! That can only come, however, when the individual accepts that anything outside of God's will must absolutely be resisted and rejected once and for all... no matter how much it causes the person to suffer. Freedom Avenue comes after one walks down Suffering Lane! If one doesn't accept this, they will “never” experience true godly deliverance.

## 2- How to identify if Jezebel has infiltrated your church's leadership

In Revelation 2:20-23 we read these words of Jesus: "But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality. "Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve."

Before we look deeper into the above passage, we need to understand who Jezebel was. Please take a moment to read the entire passage listed below as it will give us great insight into this woman, Jezebel:

1 Kings 21:1-16 " Now there was a man named Naboth, from Jezreel, who owned a vineyard in Jezreel beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. One day Ahab said to Naboth, "Since your vineyard is so convenient to my palace, I would like to buy it to use as a vegetable garden. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange, or if you prefer, I will pay you for it." But Naboth replied, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance that was passed down by my ancestors." So Ahab went home angry and sullen because of Naboth's answer. The king went to bed with his face to the wall and refused to eat! "What's the matter?" his wife Jezebel asked him. "What's made you so upset that you're not eating?" "I asked Naboth to sell me his vineyard or trade it, but he refused!" Ahab told her. "Are you the king of Israel or not?" Jezebel demanded. "Get up and eat something, and don't worry about it. I'll get you Naboth's vineyard!" So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders and other leaders of the town where Naboth lived. In her letters she commanded: "Call the citizens together for a time of fasting, and give Naboth a place of honor. And then seat two scoundrels across from him who will accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death." So the elders and other town leaders followed the instructions Jezebel had written in the letters. They called for a fast and put Naboth at a prominent place before the people. Then the two scoundrels came and sat down across from him. And they accused Naboth before all the people, saying, "He cursed God and the king." So he was dragged outside the town and stoned to death. The town leaders then sent word to Jezebel, "Naboth has been stoned to death." When Jezebel heard the news, she said to Ahab, "You know the vineyard Naboth wouldn't sell you? Well, you can have it now! He's dead!" So Ahab immediately went down to the vineyard of Naboth to claim it."

From the above passage in 1 Kings, we learn the following:

1- Naboth was a righteous man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard represents the ministry that God calls a person to, according to Matthew 20:1-16. In verse 1 of Matthew 20 we read: "For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard". The vineyard is ministry; the owner is the Lord; He calls whoever He wills into His vineyard to work. You, brothers and sisters, are called to ministry; each of us is! God wants to use YOU in His vineyard... and Jezebel wants to stop you!

2- Ahab represents one in authority. In the passage above, Ahab requests that the vineyard (ministry) of Naboth be given to him. Ahab promises a "better" vineyard (ministry) or even money (a payout to take it from you). You see, false authority will always offer you a "promotion" to a "better ministry" if you simply let go of what you're called to do by God. If that fails, Ahab will buy your ministry (take it from you) in order to get rid of you in order to see you leave the church you were being used by God in. Ahab may be in authority but his authority is false. Perhaps at one time he was anointed by God but by aligning with Jezebel, as we will see, he became corrupt and now seeks to destroy genuine godly authority raised up by the Lord.

3- Naboth, being righteous, understood that the vineyard (ministry) was given to him by God as an inheritance; it was not to be put into the hands of another. When God gives you your calling... no man can take that from you! The Pastor, deacons, elders, etc are not called to do what God called "you" to do and they don't have any authority to stop you from being used by God if you're genuinely called to a particular ministry. Those who know the calling of God on their lives will never allow anyone with a Jezebel spirit to take it from them...period. If God calls you to it... God will see you through it! No devil in hell can stop you if God has called you!

4- Ahab, the authority over Naboth, became angry; he felt Naboth should have given him what was not his to have. False authority will always seek to first negotiate the removal of your vineyard (ministry) and if you refuse, the authority over you will then become angry at you for your obedience to the Lord. While Ahab was in fact in a position of authority, he used his position to promote false authority; an authority not given to him by God. False authority hates when you obey God because false authority knows that when you obey God that God will always lead you to disobey “them”! Ahab wants to be your god; he hates that you trust completely in the Lord... so he’ll attack you once your ministry conflicts with his own personal ambitions.

5- Now, enter Jezebel; the wife of Ahab. She sees his emotional disposition and then asks him why he’s angry and upset. Ahab confides in her concerning his desire for Naboth’s vineyard (ministry). Those with an Ahab spirit will always – in secret conversation – look for alliances to in order to steal another’s vineyard (ministry). Notice that through the entire scene, Jezebel is “in the background”; it looks like she’s submitted to Ahab... but in reality, Ahab is submitted to her! In the eyes of the people she’s a humble, soft and gentle woman; behind closed doors, she controls the king!

6- Jezebel then instills a false sense of identity in Ahab, reminding him that he’s the king of Israel. Forget that Ahab had no God given authority to take another man’s vineyard... Jezebel implied that because he’s the authority that he can do whatever he wants to. She then tells him that she herself will get Naboth’s vineyard (ministry). Jezebel will always embolden weak leaders into pride; she will plant within them a sense of false assurance that everyone must obey them without question. This is what Jezebel does; she operates through weak leaders who she causes to believe are above questioning. Pride is what she instills in leaders and we know that pride comes before destruction (Proverbs 16:18).

7- Jezebel now plots to kill Naboth by publicly celebrating Naboth as a Man of God before the entire community! What a cunning devil this woman was! She sent party invites to the elders and leaders of Naboth’s town (local church) and does so in the king’s name. She instructs, “Call the citizens together for a time of fasting, and give Naboth a place of honor. And then seat two scoundrels across from him who will accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death”. The elders and leaders, getting a letter from the king, must have wondered “why” he wanted Naboth dead but notice they simply obeyed the order... without questioning it. Pause and think about that! Obedience to any authority that demands one kill another’s ministry, reputation, etc, is evil and God will hold to account any and all who obey false authority.

8- Notice also that within the instructions was a fast. Jezebel hid her evil intentions by calling for what appeared to be a godly command: Fasting! This cunning devil will use Biblical words, instructions, etc... but it’s agenda is to steal, kill and destroy... all by using the Word of God out of context to do it! Jezebel is a master manipulator and an expert at controlling others. She’ll appear as though she’s offering you freedom but the moment you submit to her, you’ll be in bondage and not know it! She’ll mix into the Word her own agenda and will find Biblical passages that she’ll twist in order to “prove” that she’s “hearing from God”. Jezebel is a wicked abominable devil indeed and she operates through leaders and/or is close enough to leaders to influence them. Once she has a leader, the leader then takes her spirit and imparts it to the congregation.

9 – Two scoundrels (false witnesses) who worked for the elders and leaders accused Naboth at his own celebration party of cursing God and the king. The townspeople (congregation) were spiritually blind and killed Naboth... in the middle of what was supposed to be a joyous occasion. Following false authority will ultimately cause the people of God to engage in conduct they believe is pleasing to the Lord but what is in reality of the devil. This is the seriousness of the danger of following false authority! Just because there’s an authority over you does “not” mean you need to obey that authority without question! If those over you are in error and deception... do not for any reason do as they demand; rebel against them because in doing so you’re submitting to the Lord!

10- Once Naboth was murdered, Jezebel informed king Ahab that he could now go and claim Naboth’s vineyard (ministry). This speaks to how false authority will always seek to destroy ministries that they themselves want or that they want quashed. They’ll conspire with other leaders, raise up false witnesses and finally kill the Naboth in their midst in order to take what was always Naboth’s. You see, brothers and sisters, false authority will always come against genuine godly authority! Why? Because false authority can’t thrive in the midst of true authority because true authority will always discern Jezebel!

This, brothers and sisters, is how Jezebel operates. She's crafty and knows the Word; she speaks what appears to be blessings over other leaders and ministries but inwardly she wants to take for herself that which God has not given to her. She will conspire against others by actually publicly praising and blessing them ... just before she kills them!

This spirit is often hard to discern as it comes as an "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14) and as a minister of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:15). Jezebel will preach righteousness so as to ensure that those around her believe she's walking in truth; this is exactly how she works in a church congregation.

Note also she has access to the king's chamber; this indicates that Jezebel is close enough to the king to influence his decisions. So close in fact, when we see Jezebel in 1 Kings 21, she's the wife of the king; you can't get any closer than that! Often, husbands and wives or Pastors and other leaders will have meetings... not to pray and fast and seek God's Will.... but to speak about how "so and so" needs to be corrected, told to remain silent, get ex-communicated, etc. Jezebel loves having "leadership meetings" that consist of checking off the names of congregation members who they feel may be a threat to their hold on power.

As we've just seen who and how Jezebel works... let us now go back to our passage in Revelation 2:

"But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality. "Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve."

1- Notice that Jesus says the local church is "permitting" Jezebel to lead God's people the wrong way. Elders who allow anyone in their congregation to lead God's people astray will soon find the Holy Spirit bringing firm correction to them. It's up to the elders and leaders to heed what God is speaking to them or not. If a church allows Jezebel to operate, that church will experience two things: First, godly men and women will begin to leave the fellowship in search of a godly church and second, the church will become a place where there's carnality, flesh on display and a host of problems that only seem to get bigger and bigger and bigger. Tolerating a Jezebel spirit in a church will ultimately destroy the church!

2- Notice that Jezebel is a teacher who "also" calls herself a prophet; she has a place of authority in this church and as she calls "herself" a prophet- God has not called her a prophet!- she has prophetic giftings which the undiscerning eat up like candy. She's teaching things in this particular church that Jesus Christ absolutely hates. In our modern times, Jezebel may be teaching things such as false grace, cessationism, unquestioned submission to their pastor, etc. Whatever the case, Jezebel is a teacher... and teaches what Jesus Christ absolutely despises.

3- Jesus gives time for Jezebel to repent. This indicates that Jezebel knows what she's doing; otherwise how could she repent? Someone must have come to the woman in this church at some point – most likely several times!- to warn her of God's judgment against what she's engaged in: False teaching that Jesus hates. Even though Jezebel is the enemy of God, He gives her time to turn from sin and walk in truth. The goodness of God leads us to repentance... and even Jezebel gets an opportunity to repent.

4- Her sin, according to the passage, is immorality. Jezebel taught what was not moral before God. In modern times this can be a variety of things and yet Jezebel will "always" present what she's teaching and engaging in as God's Will. She may even use dreams, visions and prophecies to back up what she's teaching. Nonetheless, Jesus calls Jezebel "immoral"; this indicates that while others see her as morally pure – after all, she was a leader in the church!- Jesus sees her as immoral! Those who carry a Jezebel spirit are often soft-spoken diplomats; they appear outwardly to want to unify but inwardly they despise any and all who don't fall in line with their agenda. Jezebel is immoral; she outwardly appears moral but inwardly she's full of dead men's bones as she's the one who's killed them all!

5- Jesus then says that Jezebel will be thrown onto a “bed of suffering”. Those who carry this wretched spirit will begin to experience suffering... and they’ll claim that “satan is attacking them” when in reality the Lord is bringing judgment upon them for their immoral teachings and for leading God’s People astray. Not all suffering, as we see here, is due to sin or satan; Jezebel suffers due to her refusal to repent and that suffering is sent by the Lord Jesus Himself! Jezebel will often claim that “satan is attacking” her and any and all who speak against her false authority will be deemed as “accusers of the brethren”. Jezebel claims that her suffering is due to her stand for truth when in reality it’s due to her immorality.

6- Notice that Jesus declares judgment against all who “commit adultery” with her will suffer greatly; this indicates that those who follow Jezebel in a local assembly will also incur the judgment of God for submitting to any and all who carry the characteristics of Jezebel unless they repent. Thus, some in churches who follow and submit to those who display the Jezebel spirit also know what they are doing and yet they continue to do it. They know to repent... which shows us they have knowledge that Jezebel is in error and that they shouldn’t follow her.

7- Notice in the passage it says “from HER evil deeds”. The local church was called on by Jesus to repent of following “her” evil deeds. Jesus saw what the church was doing as a direct result of what Jezebel was teaching. Jezebel – an authority in the local church – was seen by Jesus as the “mother figure” of the congregation. When any church has a leader who’s seen as “the” leader and is unquestioned and unchallenged... you have a Jezebel on your hands! When you’re not allowed to ask questions or need permission to; when you’re told never to question your leaders or when it’s implied you must never question them... you’re sitting under a Jezebel spirit!

8- Jesus then says He will strike “her children” dead. Jezebel has children, according to Jesus. These “children” are all who are under the authority of someone or a group of leaders who celebrate others and then destroy them through false teaching and evil conduct. Any and all who discern a Jezebel in their leadership and yet continue to follow such people are the children of Jezebel. Jesus Christ the Lord declares that those who are born of Jezebel will die. What does this mean? It means such people, who may have once known the Lord, will die spiritually.

9- Jesus Christ then says that He will do all of this as an example to all other churches to know that He doesn’t play games when it comes to His Church; that He won’t spare anyone who permits Jezebel to hold a place of authority in their local congregation. Jesus Christ loves His Church; He won’t tolerate Jezebel destroying His Body; a time will come when He will so severely, openly and publicly judge Jezebel and her children that those who see it will fear and think hard and long about walking in the spirit of Jezebel or submitting to leaders who carry the Jezebel spirit.

10- Jesus concludes by saying that he will give to each person in that congregation exactly what they deserve and by what he previously said... it’s judgment. What a frightening thought to be under the judgment of God while believing oneself to be under His blessing! Every person, individually, who has submitted themselves to the Jezebel spirit will “get what they deserve”. That’s a scary thought, brothers and sisters! Jezebel (leaders who operate under this demonic spirit) will also get what they too deserve. Jesus doesn’t mince words here; judgement is coming!

How then can one be assured freedom from following elders and leaders who walk in the characteristics of Jezebel?:

1- Have a consistent life of prayer and fasting; only in seeking God’s face for yourself will you be assured of complete and total deliverance from deceptive people, including deceptive elders and leaders. (1 Thessalonians 5:17 )

2- Know the Word of God! Remember, Jezebel knows the Word and twists it to destroy others! If you know the Word of God, you’ll recognize Jezebel when she appears and you won’t be taken in by her. (Psalm 119:11)

3- Do not sin! Stay away from sin ... because sin will kill you and thus you’ll have no discernment into what is truly of God and what’s of the enemy. (Romans 7:11)



4- Humble yourself daily and moment by moment; those who walk in humility attract the Presence and Power of God. Humility to the Lord is a beautiful fragrance! (Obadiah 1:3)

5- Be a lover of truth and never ever tell lies! Those who don't love the truth or only love it partially and who tell lies... they'll be snared by Jezebel's false giftings and will thus be deceived! (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

If you recognize the characteristics of Jezebel in your church or in its leadership, you must do the following:

1- Seek God for your leaders; He knows why they're permitting Jezebel to teach and have authority. Only He can bring about true and lasting change to any church or leadership who finds itself with a Jezebel in its midst.

2- Lovingly bring up this issue to the leadership. It may be received and it may not be; nonetheless, Jezebel must be exposed and confronted. Do so with great humility, without any anger or an attitude that everyone is deceived except you.

3- If no change is forthcoming and leadership continues walking in false authority, leave the congregation. The Lord does not call us to stay in an assembly where the People of God are being led astray. The Holy Spirit will lead you, guide you and ensure you're safe from Jezebel's stranglehold; He'll place you in a loving, caring and genuine community where Jezebel is not permitted to rule with false authority.

In closing, my prayer is that this teaching, which the Lord taught me with through His Word, will bless you, encourage you and even challenge you – not to “look for Jezebel”- but rather to invite the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart if a Jezebel ever rises up unnoticed in your local assembly; that you would trust God to reveal it to you and to then safeguard you from this devil that seeks to control you, manipulate you and ultimately destroy you.

Jezebel's ultimate defeat!

As you read above, Jezebel was a wicked woman who sought to destroy the servants of God by influencing her husband, king Ahab. Her goal was to take from God's People what was never her's to take. Because of what she engaged in, the Lord would soon destroy her... and how He did this is what this article, part 2, is about. Let's now go to our texts to see the outcome of operating in a Jezebel spirit:

In 2 Kings 9:1-13 “Meanwhile, Elisha the prophet had summoned a member of the group of prophets. “Get ready to travel,” he told him, “and take this flask of olive oil with you. Go to Ramoth-gilead, and find Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi. Call him into a private room away from his friends, and pour the oil over his head. Say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: I anoint you to be the king over Israel.’ Then open the door and run for your life!” So the young prophet did as he was told and went to Ramoth-gilead. When he arrived there, he found Jehu sitting around with the other army officers. “I have a message for you, Commander,” he said. “For which one of us?” Jehu asked. “For you, Commander,” he replied. So Jehu left the others and went into the house. Then the young prophet poured the oil over Jehu's head and said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I anoint you king over the Lord's people, Israel. You are to destroy the family of Ahab, your master. In this way, I will avenge the murder of my prophets and all the Lord's servants who were killed by Jezebel. The entire family of Ahab must be wiped out. I will destroy every one of his male descendants, slave and free alike, anywhere in Israel. I will destroy the family of Ahab as I destroyed the families of Jeroboam son of Nebat and of Baasha son of Ahijah. Dogs will eat Ahab's wife Jezebel at the plot of land in Jezreel, and no one will bury her.” Then the young prophet opened the door and ran. Jehu went back to his fellow officers, and one of them asked him, “What did that madman want? Is everything all right?” “You know how a man like that babbles on,” Jehu replied. “You're hiding something,” they said. “Tell us.” So Jehu told them, “He said to me, ‘This is what the Lord says: I have anointed you to be king over Israel.’” Then they quickly spread out their cloaks on the bare steps and blew the ram's horn, shouting, “Jehu is king!”

1- Jezebel is a false prophet, among other things, and so the first thing the Lord does in preparing to destroy this woman is to raise up true prophets to prepare for spiritual battle; this is what we see here in verse 1 where Elisha the prophet calls on other prophets to “Get ready to travel”.

2- The prophets are called on to take oil with them – a symbol of the Anointing – in which to anoint Jehu in private to take the place of Ahab who is soon to be removed as an authority. Both Ahab and Jezebel abused their authority over God’s People and as a result the Lord had appointed another king who was by occupation a Commander. This is significant as it shows God chose a man who knew what battle was all about! When God gets ready to anoint someone... it’s someone who knows what spiritual warfare is!

3- When the prophetic declaration by the Lord through His prophets was that Jehu was now anointed king over Israel, things were set in motion to destroy Ahab and Jezebel that no one would be able to stop; God had made His decision and as we will see, Jehu indeed became king and order was restored to the People of God.

4- Jehu was commanded by God to destroy Ahab’s entire family line; this speaks to the fact that not only false authority but also the fruit (family line!) of false authority must be destroyed; Jehu was to leave no stone unturned in this civil war against the People of God. The Lord not only wanted to remove false authority... He wanted to ensure that anything connected to and loyal to Ahab and Jezebel would be removed as well!

5- Notice that God calls Jehu to destroy Ahab “your master”. This indicates that while false authority will tell you to submit without question, God says otherwise! God calls Jehu to rebel against Ahab, showing that the People of God are “not” called to unquestioned submission. The Jezebel spirit will always demand strict obedience while God’s Spirit will call you to rise up against “your master” in order to remove false authority.

6- God says that in destroying Ahab and his family that God will be avenging the murder of His prophets. Ahab and Jezebel hate true prophetic voices and as a result they murder them! In today’s terms, false authority will always come against, attack and then finally remove from the church (murder) true prophets, apostles, etc of the Lord. Ahab and Jezebel feel threatened by true ministries and as a result they make sure that any godly ministry is taken out before they – Ahab and Jezebel – are exposed.

7- God declares that dogs will eat Jezebel. Why dogs? Why this particular judgment? If we go to Psalm 22 we read the prophetic words of the Cross; in verse 16 we read these words: “My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me”. Dogs represent those opposed to the Cross of Christ as seen in Psalm 22. Dogs are also a representation of false teachers as we see in Philippians 3:2 which says, “Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved”. So we see that God’s Judgement against Jezebel by the eating of her flesh by dogs is the Lord saying, “The very thing you are is the very thing which will I will use to destroy you!”. Jezebel’s judgement is to reap the very thing she sowed to the true saints of God!

8- Jehu then tells those with him that God had anointed him king; not a single person present said, “No way! Ahab is king! This is treason!”. They knew by the Spirit of God that had spoken through the prophets to Jehu that Ahab was done; that he and Jezebel were about to be taken out by the fierce Judgment of God. This shows us that those who are truly of God will finally discern between false authority and true authority. When the Lord anoints someone for a ministry... the people of God who’s hearts seek after the Lord will always stand with those whom God has called, appointed and anointed to do His work.

9- It’s interesting that the People of God with Jehu blew the ram’s horn; this indicates that while Jehu was privately anointed as king, the time had come when a public declaration was manifested by the blowing of the ram’s horn that he was king. The blowing of the ram’s horn openly and publicly signified that the Lord had raised up Jehu to replace Ahab and to go to battle with the People of God against Jezebel.

10- Notice that the People of God also spread out their cloaks; this represents submission to the anointing on Jehu’s life by God. They were saying, in effect, “We receive the ministry that God has given you; we acknowledge that God has replaced Ahab with you. We recognize God’s call on your life to lead Israel”. When God calls you, you won’t need to blow your own trumpet; the Lord will blow His Trumpet over you and His People will hear the sound of the battle cry to go to war against the Jezebel spirit! The Lord will call an army to stand with you as you storm the gates of hell against Jezebel, Ahab and all who follow them!

In verse 22 of 2 Kings 9 we read these words: "Jehu replied, "How can there be peace as long as the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother, Jezebel, are all around us?"

Notice that idolatry and witchcraft had taken over the land under Jezebel's rule. In many churches today there's idolatry; an unhealthy submission to certain leaders. Men are looked on in the church today with more admiration than Jesus Christ receives! When those in a church setting are submitted to their leaders without questioning anything and who are afraid to confront false authority... you know that idolatry has taken over!

Also, witchcraft is a hallmark of Jezebel's rule in the church today. What is witchcraft? We often think of witches with pointed hats and crystal balls and while that may be the case... it's not the case in our churches. Witchcraft in our churches manifests as rebellion. In 1 Samuel 15:23 we read: "Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king". So rebellion and stubbornness are the same as witchcraft and idol worship. But why? Rebellion is to rebel against what God calls us to do in order to obey false authority; stubbornness is to continue to follow false authority when God calls us to repent of following Jezebel and Ahab!

### The death of Jezebel

2 Kings 9:30-37 "When Jezebel, the queen mother, heard that Jehu had come to Jezreel, she painted her eyelids and fixed her hair and sat at a window. When Jehu entered the gate of the palace, she shouted at him, "Have you come in peace, you murderer? You're just like Zimri, who murdered his master!" Jehu looked up and saw her at the window and shouted, "Who is on my side?" And two or three eunuchs looked out at him. "Throw her down!" Jehu yelled. So they threw her out the window, and her blood spattered against the wall and on the horses. And Jehu trampled her body under his horses' hooves. Then Jehu went into the palace and ate and drank. Afterward he said, "Someone go and bury this cursed woman, for she is the daughter of a king." But when they went out to bury her, they found only her skull, her feet, and her hands. When they returned and told Jehu, he stated, "This fulfills the message from the Lord, which he spoke through his servant Elijah from Tishbe: 'At the plot of land in Jezreel, dogs will eat Jezebel's body. Her remains will be scattered like dung on the plot of land in Jezreel, so that no one will be able to recognize her.'"

1- Notice the term, "queen mother". Jezebel is the "queen mother" of all who follow her. The Lord is the Heavenly Father of His people; Jezebel is the queen mother of her people. God makes a clear distinction between His children and her children. He disowns any fatherhood of those who follow Jezebel. This is a frightening thing indeed! God wants nothing to do with Jezebel nor her children; He openly disowns them. Of course He calls on all to repent but while Jezebel and her children continue in idolatry and witchcraft, God makes it a point to let us know that these people belong to Jezebel.

2- Jezebel pretties herself up as she sees Jehu coming, representing defiance; she was saying, "Whether I live or die, I'm the queen here! I'm the royal authority!". The Jezebel spirit will, until the very end, seek to make itself look good ... even when it's been exposed! False authority will never ever give in to true authority; this is why it absolutely must be destroyed!

3- Jezebel asks if Jehu comes in peace and then calls him a murderer... the very thing she herself is! Remember, Jezebel killed God's prophets and God's servants; it was Jezebel who was the cold blooded killer. The Jezebel spirit will always accuse true men and women of God of being evil; it will accuse, attack and slander you so that you lose your credibility. The reality is that Jezebel is the one who has no credibility; she's the evil one and yet she claims you're the evil one!

4- Jehu doesn't defend himself against this evil accusation; instead, he bypasses Jezebel and asks anyone within earshot who is on his side. He wants to know who can hear from God and who continues to submit to the false spirit of Jezebel. You and I must be bold and ask those who have been trapped by Jezebel if they want to be free or not; if they want to come out from her false authority to walk with the Lord Jesus. Never fear Jezebel; simply bypass her false accusations and ask those in earshot who's side are they on; the Lord's side or Ahab and Jezebel's?

5- Jehu then commands that Jezebel be thrown out of the window to be killed, thus permanently ending her rule and reign of terror over the People of God. By killing her, there would be no further opportunity for Jezebel to exercise false authority over anyone; her

demonic influence would be over with once and for all. Today, “killing Jezebel” is certainly not by means of physical harm; it’s by means of spiritual warfare. As Jehu was commissioned by God to confront and to destroy Jezebel in Old Covenant times, we’re commissioned by God to confront and to destroy the spirit of Jezebel in New Covenant times. How is this done? By seeking God’s anointing to confront and expose this spirit that works against the People of God. Prayer, fasting and a complete and total reliance on the Holy Spirit is essential in seeing the demonic Jezebel spirit removed from leadership in our churches and ministries.

6- Once Jezebel is destroyed, Jehu goes into the palace and has dinner. This is a reminder that God prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies! (Psalm 23:5. It’s interesting to note that in order to get into the place, Jehu would have had to have gone through the guards, etc. There was zero opposition to his entering into Ahab and Jezebel’s palace. There was complete submission. When you’re called by God – truly called by God!- you won’t need to defend against Jezebel’s servants; they’re eyes will be opened by the Holy Spirit and you’ll be well received!

7- Jehu calls Jezebel a “cursed woman”. You see, there can be no blessing to a local church when Jezebel is in charge! Remember... Jezebel calls herself a prophet (Revelation 2) and is in a position where she teaches. Jezebel in a church may appear godly and anointed... but in reality, as we’ve seen in part 1 of this study, she’s immoral and walks in a false anointing. Jezebel is cursed and therefore any church or ministry accepting Jezebel comes under the same curse!

8- Notice that the People of God say ““This fulfills the message from the Lord”. When God calls on you, appoints you and anoints you to expose and confront Jezebel, she may dress up and look authoritative before her destruction but ultimately... she “will” fail! What God calls you to do – battle against the spirit of Jezebel and win!- will be fulfilled! Yes, there may be a “civil war” in your church for a season just as there was a civil war in Ahab’s time but when all is said and done, God will prevail through those with eyes to see and ears to hear. Jezebel will ultimately be defeated through prayer, fasting and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

In conclusion

Brothers and sisters, as you see here from the Scripture, Jezebel will always come to an end! God will raise up voices to expose and confront the spirit of Jezebel in leadership; God will call some of you reading this to “make war” against your master (false authority) in order to see Jezebel’s influence come to nothing. You may not be believed initially; you may be accused of many things such as rebellion against your church, it’s leaders, etc but ultimately you will see victory given to you by the Lord Most High over Ahab and Jezebel.

God loves His church; He will never allow Jezebel’s false giftings and Ahab’s false authority to rule and reign in the House of God for long before He calls prophets to prepare for spiritual battle. Can you hear the call of the Lord today against Jezebel and all of her children? Will you obey the Holy Spirit and confront this vile devil so that God’s People can go free?

You and I are called to be Jehu’s in the Body of Christ; we’re called and commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ to set captives free and this includes seeing Jezebel’s influence come to nothing; it includes seeing Ahab’s false authority removed!

When you do accept God’s call to battle against the spirit of Jezebel, you must be prepared to be misunderstood, lied about, accused, attacked and forsaken by many! The spirit of Jezebel has a hold on so many Pastors, leaders and churches and because of this, you will be a target of their malicious lies, anger, bitterness and resentment but take hope! God is with you, for you, by you, in you and around you! You cannot be taken out because the Lion of the Tribe of Judah lives in you! Fear not, little ones; Jesus Christ is Lord!

Be led of God; don’t fear nor take flight from Jezebel or Ahab... because God is with you and will deliver you! Not only that; He’ll use you to see multitudes set free from Jezebel’s hold and Jesus Christ will be glorified through your surrender to Him in battling against what He hates.

### 3- Seven Characteristics of a Healthy Local Church

1- A healthy church is a praying church – Matthew 21:13 He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

The House of God is not a house of music, prophecies, entertainment, preaching or any other thing; it's a house of prayer. A healthy church has a leadership and a membership who knows how to pray, fast and wait on God. They see the spiritual benefit of calling on the Name of the Lord and they do it often. A healthy church will not have a mere moment of prayer; the entire meeting will be birthed in it!

2- The church recognizes all ministry offices – Ephesians 4 11:-14 “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. “

A healthy church will not only accept apostolic and prophetic ministry; it will embrace these offices and their corresponding giftings and recognize those in the fellowship who walk in these offices. There will be a clear atmosphere of prophetic anointing as well as apostolic structure.

3- The church doesn't cover up its sins, faults and failures; it's open to correction – James 5:16 “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

A healthy church will accept correction when it's in error. There's no "We have it all together" attitude. A healthy church is a church which lovingly corrects one another and accepts rebuke from others who may see faults that the church does not see.

4- It's accountable; not to large organizations but to one another and to the leadership – Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. “ and Ephesians 5: 21 “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. “

A healthy church will have leadership that is accountable to other leadership and sheep who are accountable to their shepherds. It's proper to submit to your Pastors and for your Pastors to also submit to those over them in the Lord.

5- It preaches God's wrath as well as God's Love.- Romans 11:12 “Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. “

A healthy church will not only preach the Love and Mercy of God; it will preach the fierce wrath and damnation of God against the wicked who refuse to repent. A healthy church will confront those who profess Jesus Christ and yet engage in sleeping around, homosexuality, lying, greed, unforgiveness, etc (1 Corinthians 5). Churches which preach both God's love and wrath are balanced and healthy.

6- It tests and exposes false teachers and false prophets – Revelation 2:2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them

to be false" and then in Romans 16:17-18 we read "I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive."

A healthy church will not shy away from exposing- by name- those whom God calls them to expose and name. They will not compromise on testing those who claim to be of God yet are false and counterfeit. They will do what the church in Revelation did; they will test and expel false teachers.

7- It's disciples produces disciples- Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

A healthy church is a church which preaches the Gospel (Grace that empowers us to obey the commandments of Jesus Christ). They invite people to church, events, etc, and aren't afraid to preach the Gospel to anyone with an ear. A healthy church is a multiplying church.

## 4- What is Hyper Grace?

Hyper Grace is the teaching that one can walk with God while living in open sin and rebellion to His commands. This teaching claims that because we're not longer under the Law we can now feel secure in deliberate sin. Those who hold to the Hyper Grace Message accuse others of being "legalistic" and "Pharisees". It's primary message is that you "need the revelation of Grace" so that you can "be free" yet the freedom of the Hyper Grace Message is to strengthen men in their sin and in their bondage. Hyper Grace teachers won't blatantly come out and tell you to live in sin or that sin is somehow good... not at all! They instead affirm the wicked as being "under grace" so long as the wicked "claim Jesus". This message is certainly not a new one; the Scriptures tell us about the Hyper Grace Message and those who preach it when it says:

"I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." (Jude 1:4)

The poison of the Hyper Grace Message seems to have infected what were once godly assemblies with discerning leaders who now come against and attack those who hold to Biblical Holiness as the standard of God for His Church. What a great tragedy that those who once stood firm on the positions of Scripture regarding purity are now standing on the foundationless sand of a so-called "grace message" that neither transforms nor radically cuts sin off at the root.

Hyper Grace claims that God no longer judges; that while He hates sin, He'll "never judge His People" if they turn to a lifestyle of sin and yet we find the exact opposite as found in Revelation 2:14-16 where the Risen Christ says, "But I have a few complaints against you. You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin. In a similar way, you have some Nicolaitans among you who follow the same teaching. Repent of your sin, or I will come to you suddenly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

Don't be deceived by those who claim that by attacking sin and confronting false doctrine that it's somehow "legalism" and "being a Pharisee". Paul the Apostle himself warned against false doctrine and false teachers, one time doing so for three solid years straight as he says in Acts 20:28-31 "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you."

Brothers and sisters, while multitudes have allowed the false Hyper Grace Message to saturate their lives and churches, God's Will for your life is that you remain firm in the faith, walking before God humbly and with a heart cries out for greater and greater measures of sanctification. Stay away from those who preach a mixed message; turn off their shows, throw away their books and don't step one foot in their churches! These men and their followers are deceived and rather than call people to deny themselves and walk with God in purity, they instead speak much of holiness yet it's a false holiness that has no actual fruit in their day to day living. They post about grace, talk about grace, sing about grace... yet they know nothing of grace. The true Grace of God does this:

Titus 2:11-13 "For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed."

If a minister, ministry or message is not instructing you to turn from wickedness, you're sitting at a table of devils. If you listen to their messages, watch their programs and read their statuses on facebook and twitter... stop! These wolves have all the right words yet they walk in a spirit of rebellion against Christ and His commands. You see, true grace frees you from sin and it's power.. it doesn't say "God is still working on me" in order to justify an ungodly lifestyle. Yes, we struggle and yes we must battle... but not, grace will not – never ever! – leave us in our sin.

You can identify whether a ministry is Hyper Grace by the fruit it produces. Are the members of the church free from sin and growing in holiness progressively or is the church/ministry filled with sin, compromise, division and all manner of wickedness? Do the leaders attack others who dare speak of holiness and sanctification while they themselves are the shepherds of goats who's lives remain unchanged? Hyper Grace churches are very easy to spot! Their music may be the best around! Their youth groups may be the best thing in the city! The pews may be packed! The identifying mark, however, is that these churches have very very sick sheep who's lives are a mess of sexual sin, gossip, backbiting, addictions and all manner of the works of the flesh.

No matter who it is, what they claim or who follows them... if they aren't preaching the Grace of God that sets men free from sin and bondage then stay away!



## 5- Six Characteristics of Hyper Grace Churches and Preachers

Some may wonder why I take time to expose- not specific people- but false systems of beliefs within our churches. Paul the Apostle did this himself... for three years straight! In Acts 20:29-31 we read "I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you." At times, the Lord will burden an individual with a particular message or stream of thought. In my own case, both discipleship and discernment are mainstays of the ministry that God has given to me. I praise God for those among us who take the time to warn the flock; there are multitudes doing it and I bless God for this!

Some will not be able to handle the words I'm going to write here. They're too entrenched in a false grace; their eyes are blinded and because of their love for false grace, they'll become angry and bitter at this message. For such of you who do become offended, may your offense be the evidence of your self deception and may God deliver you!

Today, I want to deal with false grace- or otherwise known as Hyper Grace. There's a false grace message being preached by once godly men who turned themselves over to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons. This false grace message appears to be genuine yet when one compares this message with the whole counsel of Scripture, one can see how imbalanced and wicked it is. Men who once stood in the truth of Holiness now stand and approve men and women in their sin, claiming that God no longer judges. What a tragedy! Because this false Hyper Grace message is making it's rounds through many once solid Biblical churches, I want to give you 6 characteristics in which to identify them.

1- Hyper Grace Preachers refuse to call people to true genuine repentance from sin:

The hyper grace preacher will never ever tell a fornicator that unless they repent that they're going to hell... because they feel it's "too unloving". In fact, if you say that homosexuality, shacking up before marriage and sleeping together are sinful, you'll be called a mean-spirited pharisee. Hyper grace preachers love to say things like, "Let the Holy Spirit work on them" or "They just don't have a revelation of God's love yet". These individuals are so twisted in their thinking that they remain silent on sin and attack those who are against sin. They claim it's not loving to peach against adultery, homosexuality, lying and lust.

Here's what the Word says:

"When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people." (1 Corinthians 5:9-11)

2- Hyper Grace Preachers don't believe that God judges His People:

Modern hyper grace preachers now claim that God doesn't judge His people. They'll tell you that He did those kinds of things in the Old Testament but now that we're "under grace", He doesn't engage in that kind of thing anymore. By making this heretical and evil claim about God, they set people up to believe that whether they sin like the devil or not, they're A-OK. The hyper grace preacher is a preacher of bubble gum/cotton candy teaching that doesn't challenge anyone and certainly doesn't convict anyone.

Here's what the Word says:

"Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him." (Acts 6:3-6)

3- Hyper Grace Preachers are enemies of the Cross of Christ:

Hyper grace preachers talk tons and tons about the Cross but in reality they know nothing of the Cross. They go on and on about our "victory through the Cross" yet many of these hyper grace followers know nothing of victory at all. They still live in pride, division, anger against others and unforgiveness. They post on Facebook about the Cross so much that you'd think they were the real deal. Living a day with them, however, reveals a lack of victory in their lives over anger, pride, gossip and other such sinful behaviors and heart attitudes towards others. They preach much about the cross yet they experience very little of the Cross' power in their own personal lives. This is because they see the Cross as a fluffy thing to post about and not an instrument of death to self on a daily basis.

Here's what the Word says:

"For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ." (Philippians 3:18)

4- Hyper Grace Preachers are followed by people who love their sin:

Look around a hyper grace preacher and you'll find people who love their sin. They'll twist it and say "Jesus was the friend of sinners" yet we know that Jesus *transformed* sinners and took them out of their sin... not left them to die in it! Hyper grace teachers have a following of people who have no intention of laying down their evil ways. This is why hyper grace teachers are so popular... and my city isn't an exception! I've observed hyper grace preachers posting things on Facebook that look so good yet who are the ones clicking "like"? Fornicators who won't stop fornicating; backsliders who won't stop backsliding; liars who won't stop lying; deceivers who won't stop deceiving. You see, the true grace of God will get a man out of his sin; not leave him in it! While we struggle in various areas of our lives, hyper grace preachers have followers who aren't struggling at all... because they want to believe a message that comforts them in their sin.

Here's what the Word says:

"But now I see that the prophets of Jerusalem are even worse! They commit adultery and love dishonesty. They encourage those who are doing evil so that no one turns away from their sins. These prophets are as wicked as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah once were." (Jeremiah 23:14)

5- Hyper Grace Preachers are also full of the love of money:

Every single hyper grace preacher I personally know of also has a love for money. It appears that hyper grace and the prosperity gospel go hand in hand. This shows and displays that both false grace and a false message on how God blesses His people are

intertwined. When you attend their churches, you can be certain you'll see Kenneth Copeland and Joseph Prince materials in their library. Both of these men are heretical and one preaches the false prosperity gospel while the other the false hyper grace message. Where one is, you will usually find the other.

Here's what the Word says:

"For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows." (1 Timothy 6:10)

6- Hyper Grace Preachers attack the Law of God:

While we're no longer under the condemnation of the Law, hyper grace preachers discard the Law altogether. They won't say that they do... but this is the conclusion of their ministries and lives. You'll notice that hyper grace preachers constantly attack God's Law and put it down. They say "Stop preaching the Law!" in a way that makes it appear that any mention of God's Law at all is "legalism". They're false prophets and are the enemies of God and His Word. They hate God's Law and any mention of the Law of God is like cussing to them. The Bible upholds God's Law as holy and pure and righteous and good. We're not saved by what we do, but what we do proves if we're really saved.

Here's what the Word says:

"But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good." (Romans 7:12)

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*Brothers and sisters, beware of any man, message or ministry that doesn't call people to repent of sin (Acts 2:38-39). When the message you're hearing speaks much of the Cross yet has no call to repentance in it, you're sitting at a table of devils. When churches no longer speak on homosexuality, gossip, lying and the wrath of God against all who claim Christ and yet who practice sin, you're sitting under a false prophet. When you see nothing of sin, repentance and holiness and only messages of "peace, peace"... you know you're being sold a bill of goods. The message of the Cross is a message of radical repentance and radical self denial. It's a message of love, grace, mercy and truth. Unless the whole counsel of God's Word is being proclaimed, it's nothing more than an imbalanced and often false message. Run from their churches!*

*In conclusion, hear now this sobering message compilation from Carter Conlon and Zac Poonen. It's just under 5 minutes long but one of the most sobering messages you will ever hear! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1X4qrqB\\_H0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1X4qrqB_H0)*

## 6- Seven types of people you can't help and who you can help

Being in ministry, I'm no stranger when it comes to interacting with people on both an individual and corporate level. In this article, I want to focus on 7 types of people that nobody can help. While it's cute to say "Anybody can be helped!", that type of thinking isn't based in reality... at all. There "are" people who can't be helped, no matter how much you want to help them. I pray that this short booklet will be a guide for you in your dealings with others.

1- Those who won't take time to pray:

Prayer is the means whereby God has made available to us His empowering grace. You will never be able to help a person who says they want God's grace to overcome yet won't take the time necessary to seek the face of God. If an individual asks you to pray for them, ask them if they've first taken time before God to pray themselves. Ask them bluntly and if they say no, you then have the opportunity to tell them that you will only pray for them if they agree to pray for themselves. Prayerless people are powerless people; anything you counsel them in will not work unless they pray.

Who you CAN help:

Spend time counselling those who you know have consistent prayer lives. Be a tool in the hands of God in how to direct them to pray. You see, those who have genuine prayer lives may be facing a difficult struggle... but in counselling them you'll be directing their focus in prayer away from their issue over to God's solution!

2- Those who won't obey God:

If an individual is convicted by God in an area but refuses to lay that thing down- what makes you believe that they'll listen to you when you counsel them? If they won't listen to God, don't expect them to listen to you. Compromisers are always looking for a way to avoid accountability and responsibility; they have no intention of obeying what God has called them to let go of and as a result, anything you say will not be taken to heart by those who walk in disobedience to the Lord. That's a fact.

Who you CAN help:

Help and work with those who may be struggling in certain areas of obedience but display a genuine desire to see God move in their lives. Don't reject those who stumble and fall yet who want to stand; work with them! Everyone struggles... and those who have a heart of obedience to Jesus are no different!

3- Those who walk by sight:

We all struggle in our faith; the Lord is aware of this and has compassion on us. However, there comes a point where we must walk by faith and walking by faith means that we look to Christ for all things... and not on our external circumstances. Is this easy? No way! However, it's essential if we're to see His provision in our lives. You will never be able to help those who constantly look on external things as each time you meet with them, something new will arise in their minds as situations constantly change.

Who you CAN help:

Point the individual you're working with to look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of their faith. If they latch on to the promises of God, continue with them. If not, let them be! Some will latch on .. they only need encouragement! It's these folks you need to stick with! DO NOT GIVE UP ON THEM!

4- Those who are dishonest:

Dishonest people lie to God, to themselves and to others. You cannot help those who lie and deny. If there's a dishonesty in the heart concerning one's finances, lifestyle practices, etc, you're not going to be able to help them at all. Dishonest people are self deceived and as a result anything you counsel to them will be twisted. Dishonest people won't admit their issues; they'll make light of them.

Who you CAN help:

Work with honest people who tell the brutal truth! Honest people, no matter what their struggle, are candidates for deliverance. Honest people may tell you some deep and dark things... but don't worry because God is on their side.

5- Arrogant people:

Those who are filled with pride and yet have a mountain of issues in their lives will often seek out others to "fix up". They do this so as to avoid their own mounting problems. Prideful people pretend that nothing is wrong when in fact nothing is right in their hearts. They're people who won't think twice about slandering your name if you get in their way or if they happen to not like you. Then, they'll present themselves to others as "loving" and "caring". You cannot help a prideful person!

Who you CAN help:

Look for genuine humility in the one you're counselling. Not in their words; but in their attitudes. Humility will see a man set free! Don't give up on the humble!

6- Name it and claim it followers:

These precious people deny reality, claiming they're only denying "symptoms". They're taught by false teachers to deny their sicknesses, their poverty and whatever else is ailing them. You can often hear these people saying things like, "Don't confess that!" or "I don't receive that!". When they're actually sick, they'll deny it and say, "These are only symptoms; I'm not really sick!". You can't help someone who denies reality.

Who you CAN help:

Offer counselling to those who face their issues without a denial of those issues. Looking at issues head on will bring about a proper solution.

7- Bitter people:

Bitter people who won't let things go... stay away from them. Offer them nothing. If they're struggling, that's one thing; if they're practising unforgiveness and bitterness, don't touch them. You'll become infected. You cannot help those who refuse to love others. Let them go! Bitter people are poisonous and not only can you "not" help them.. if you stick around them too long, you'll become bitter.

Who you CAN help:

Work only with those who's hearts are open to forgiveness. If you don't discern this... stay away! If you do discern this, work with the individual because they have sensitive hearts that they haven't walled up!

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Brothers and sisters, if we waste our time on those who want freedom without obedience, we're going to burn out! Be used of God with people who are willing to obey the Lord in all areas of their lives. In doing so, you'll avoid fakes, flakes and snakes and be used by God to see people walk in victory!

## 7- The Spirit of Diotrephes Pastors Leaders who control manipulate and accuse

Diotrephes was a leader – most likely a Pastor – in the early Church whom the Apostle John named openly in John as being a leader who controlled those who were in his church. Diotrephes told those in his church not to associate with the Apostles and went further and forbade his people from welcoming Christians of other churches. Today, I want to deal with leaders who display a spirit of Diotrephes; who manipulate and control their sheep to stay away from other ministers and ministries.

Let's now go to our text as found in 3 John 1:9-11 which says:

*"I wrote to the church about this, but Diotrephes, who loves to be the leader, refuses to have anything to do with us. When I come, I will report some of the things he is doing and the evil accusations he is making against us. Not only does he refuse to welcome the traveling teachers, he also tells others not to help them. And when they do help, he puts them out of the church. Dear friend, don't let this bad example influence you. Follow only what is good. Remember that those who do good prove that they are God's children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God."*

Let's break down the text piece by piece:

1- I wrote to the church about this, but Diotrephes, who loves to be the leader...Those under the spirit of Diotrephes love being in the spotlight; they have a lust for power over people. If you don't do what they demand, you're shunned. They carry with them a spirit that seeks to control your life through prophecies, accusations and slander. They appear to have a concern but their only concern is whether or not you'll bow to their controlling spirit. They have no interest in your soul; they want only to build their personal empire on the backs of God's people.

2- Refuses to have anything to do with us. Those under the spirit of Diotrephes refuse to have anything to do with godly men and women. Diotrephes in 3 John was most likely put into his pastoral position by the apostles and yet we see that he now refuses to have anything to do with them at all. Those who operate under this spirit were at one time godly yet through the lust for power and control, have turned from Christ and are now the enemies of God's People. They pretend to love yet in their private conversations they display disdain and bitterness towards others.

3- When I come, I will report some of the things he is doing and the evil accusations he is making against us. Those under the spirit of Diotrephes bring "evil accusations" against others. They have poison in their speech and tell other believers not to associate with godly men and women. This is what Diotrephes did to the Apostles, according to the above passage. Leaders who constantly make evil accusations against God's People show that they are being influenced by the devil who is the "accuser of the brethren". (Revelation 12:10) False leaders will always accuse God's people; they carry a spirit of accusation and rebellion within them.

4- Not only does he refuse to welcome the traveling teachers, he also tells others not to help them. Those under the spirit of Diotrephes refuse to welcome those of other churches and in fact they go so far as to tell their own congregation members to stay away from those of other churches. They do this because they don't want to lose control over those who are in their churches. They carry a fear within them that others will discern the spirit in them. They welcome only those who agree with them and shun those who do not.

5- And when they do help, he puts them out of the church. Those under the spirit of Diotrephes threaten their congregation members with being removed from the church if they associate with those the leader doesn't like or agree with. They use manipulation, control and tactics such as false accusations and slander to make certain that those in their church fall in line. Or else.

Leaders who are operating under the spirit of Diotrephes do not realize that they're being influenced by devils yet the evidence is in their secret speech and in their show of anger and "disappointment" when those under their ministries don't do whatever they say.

6- Dear friend, don't let this bad example influence you. The Apostle John is telling us not to allow such false leaders to influence us. He's telling us not to allow ourselves to come under the controlling spirit of leaders who lust for power and speak evil of those of other churches and ministries. This tells us that even those who are under the spirit of Diotrpehes cannot touch us nor harm us if we choose to obey the Lord rather than their manipulative ways against God's People. If we have the fear of man, we'll cave under their pressure; however, the Lord has not given us a spirit of fear but rather he's given us a spirit of love, power and a sound mind. you and I have authority over false leadership.

7- Remember that those who do good prove that they are God's children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God. Finally, the Apostle John tells us in very plain speech that leaders who exhibit behavior that controls, manipulates and puts pressure on people are not only in error; they're of the devil. Of course leaders can be in error and still be of God yet for the most part such people are of satan. The Lord doesn't forbid people from attending other churches, supporting other ministries, etc. Those who control their people in such ways are not of God.

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Conclusion:

Brothers and sisters, may it never be found among any of us to control, accuse and manipulate others. God's people are always free to fellowship with who they want if that fellowship is godly, when they want; leaders who teach otherwise are walking in the spirit of Diotrephes and are being influenced by devils. To control God's people with pressure, accusations and secret slanders is to work against God's Kingdom and against God Himself. Let it never once be named among us.

For you who attend churches who's leadership accuses others secretly and seeks to control who you can and cannot fellowship with... run. Run as fast as you can! These kinds of leaders are no different than abusive men who slowly but surely control who their wives can and cannot hang out with until he – the abuser – becomes her only "friend". This is how satan works; he removes from your life any and all fellowship with others until you're dependent on one or two leaders and that leader's church alone. It's spiritual abuse of the highest order and such leaders are of the devil.

May God raise up leadership in these Last days who will feed and lead God's People into green pastures!

## Concluding Statement

My prayer is that you, as a servant of Jesus Christ, have gone through each leadership study contained in this manual. I believe that in doing so – and in applying the Biblical principles contained herein – that you will lead God’s people to grow ever so closer to the Lordship of Jesus. My sincere desire for each person who has gone through this manual is that they would grow in spiritual leadership, holiness, love and discernment.

In Him,

Dan Lirette