

Gospel Clarity Study Series

The Gospel and Spiritual Warfare

Session 1: Our Spiritual War

➤ A War the Gospel Won't Let Us _____

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’s sake. For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.”

–2 Corinthians 4:4-6

- A war for _____.
 - *The god of this world* _____ *the glory of Christ.*
 - *The gospel* _____ *the glory of Christ.*
- A war for dominion.
 - *The god of this world declares* _____ *as Lord.*
 - *The gospel declares* _____ *as Lord.*
- A war for life.
 - *The god of this age leaves us in the dark to* _____.
 - *The gospel draws us into the light to* _____.

➤ A War the Gospel Won't Let Us Approach Lightly.

- Let's approach this subject not to be entertained but to be _____.

“...so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan.
For we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

–2 Corinthians 2:11

- Let's approach this subject not anecdotally but _____.
- Let's approach this subject avoiding both empty _____ and excessive _____.

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight.”

–C. S. Lewis

➤ **A War the Gospel Won't Let Us Treat Simplistically.**

- **Spiritual warfare is fought on three _____ fronts.**

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously lived according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.”

–Ephesians 2:1-3

- **External Opposition: The _____**

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lusts is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.”

–1 John 2:15-17

“The “world” is an organized system that influences and shapes societal attitudes, habits and preferences throughout our lives that are in opposition and rebellion against God. This includes ungodly aspects of culture, peer pressure, values, traditions, customs, philosophies, attitudes and the like. The world reflects the prevailing cultural assumptions of the day that stand in opposition to a biblical world view and that can have a profound influence on the ways we think and act. In many ways, the nature and effects of the world permeate and dominate the culture around us and hold people in captivity to societal pressures, systems and structures.”

–Jeff Hundley

- **Internal Opposition: The _____**

“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

–Galatians 5:19-21

“The flesh is an active and aggressive opponent within each Christian. It can be thought of as an inner drive or inclination to do evil or act in ways that are contrary to God’s standard of righteousness. It is the part of us that remains tainted by the fall until we die, and can include inner motivating forces behind actions that are associated with not only the body (sexual immorality) but also aspects of the thought life as well, such as envy, anger, malice, slander, obscene talk, deceit, pride, foolishness, and the like (Gal 5:19-20; Col 3:5-8; Mark 7:21-23). The inner impulse to evil is set in contrast to the new desires put in us by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:21), resulting in frequent inner struggle within Christians.”

–Jeff Hundley

“Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, God’s wrath is coming upon the disobedient, and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self.

You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.”

–Colossians 3:5-10

▪ **Spiritual Opposition: The _____**

- **He _____ the world against us.**

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.”

–1 John 5:19

- **He _____ to the sin within us.**

“Satan’s first device to draw the soul into sin is, to present the bait—and hide the hook; to present the golden cup—and hid the poison; to present the sweet, the pleasure, and the profit that ay flow in upon the soul by yielding to sin—and to hide from the soul the wrath and misery that will certainly follow the committing of sin.”

–Thomas Brooks

“But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.”

–James 1:14-15

- **Spiritual warfare is fought not against _____.**

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.”

–Ephesians 6:12