

Intensive & Dying Discipline

The carnal believer living in the cosmic system is suffering from three areas of attack: under intensive discipline, harassment from the world and harassment from the devil. The carnal believer who remains in the world will become a spiritual loser. He is going to heaven and nothing can change that fact, but without the blessings of time and eternity.

A spiritual loser is a believer who failed to utilize the divine resources and to win his part in the angelic conflict. He failed to use Bible doctrine in solving his problems and he failed to receive the blessings that will glorify Christ. He spent his precious time in the cosmic system chasing after the wind and therefore, missing the blessings of spiritual maturity, which is the objective of the Christian life. He missed the privileges of glorifying Christ. He wasted his spiritual life in the non-essentials things of the world.

The objective of the divine discipline is far greater than the suffering it brings in the life of carnal believer. There is no blessing, spiritual power, energy, resources, perception and spiritual growth outside the divine sphere. The Lord Jesus Christ remained inside the divine system during the entire course of His humanity. There was no single minute when He strolled the cosmic system and enjoyed the devil's world. The first rule for every believer is to stay inside the divine power system because any decision to linger and enjoy the world with its lust would mean intensive divine discipline. Our spiritual freedom excluded taking pleasure in the affairs of the world.

Prolonged residence in the cosmic system could lead to sin unto death. Sin unto death is the final stage of divine discipline for the carnal believer who lived according to the power of old sin nature (flesh) and did not advance to spiritual maturity. The grace of God extends to every believer even to those living in the world and for the world. Dying discipline (1 Corinthians 11:30) or sin unto death (1 John 5:16) is the horrible departure from time into eternity.

It is administered after severe jolting the habitual rebellious believer into objectivity but refused to respond positively. Such Christian has no inner resources for meeting death, no capacity for life and no capacity for death.

Not every Christian who fails in his spiritual life and continues in negative volition is removed immediately from this life. God may keep a carnal believer alive for a long time under the intensive discipline. God employs these eternally saved "enemies of the cross" (Phil. 3:18) as instrument of momentum suffering in the lives of growing believers. The candidates for sin unto death are called cosmic Christians, who are also called:

- Enemies of the cross
Enemies of God (James 4:4)
- Haters of God (John 15:23)
- Anti-Christ (1 John 2:18)
- Hostile toward God (Rom 8:7)
- Men of flesh (1 Cor. 3:1-3)
- Doubled minded (James 4:8)
- Agents of the devil (1 John 3:8)
- Disciples of the devil (1 John 3:10)

The only reason God sustains the lives of some negative believers is to use them to train the growing believers. They failed to execute the plan of God but God uses them to build up the strength of other believers through their people testing in form of mockery, insults, persecution and continually harassing the advancing believers.

Their ministry is not a Christian's calling, and there is no reward for such work of persecuting the growing and advancing believers. They are the goats in the sheepfolds that provide the necessary physical exercises for the fattening sheep. In the local church, they provide spiritual exercise for the spiritually mature believers through the process of people testing.

These cosmic believers on the verge of maximum intensive discipline may be sincere, sweet, and legalistic who have distorted genuine Christianity into a religion of human good works. They are moral degenerates and negative volition believers in Satan's system who ambush the positive believers residing in the divine system.

The believer who is going in the wrong direction is unconsciously contributing to spiritual growth of the believers in the right direction (Psalm 76:10). Satan intended to intensify their sufferings but God is blessing them in the midst of adversity and disasters.

The perfect integrity of God manages the administration of sin unto death, which is designed to remove the calloused and rebellious believer from the face of the earth by means of physical death. Sin unto is a reminder that we never get away with any personal sin. God never overlooks any member of His royal family and no believer is ever ignored by the grace of God. At the perfect time God will supply the perfect discipline to remind the believer of what is really important in life.

Sin unto death is exclusive for the carnal and immature believers who failed to live under the Plan of Grace. Sin unto death is the death for the spiritual losers, those who lived without God in the world (Eph. 2:12). The immature believer will die apart from true peace, inner happiness and tranquility. It will be extremely painful death. The carnal believer will die with anxiety for loved ones he will leave behind; he has false hope of eternal rewards and false assurance of blessing in eternity. He will die with too much bitterness and fear, even the fear of death. The only solution for all of these problems is Bible doctrine stored in the soul.

Divine discipline is a private mentor of the one in pain, in whom God confronts the ignorance of Bible doctrine. Believers who fail to learn doctrine will suffer (divine discipline and self-made misery) all their lives until they are removed by sin unto death. The holiness of God is never affected by human sins or self-righteousness.

They may be negative at different points in the learning process, which involves reception, retention, and recall of doctrine. Those who refuse to listen to Bible doctrine will live out their days in chaos of ignorance, self-induced misery, and divine discipline. They will be unhappy and will never understand why.

There are those who listen consistently, but reject Bible doctrine they do not like to hear. The points of doctrine they resist must be learned another way, the hard way through divine discipline. Where the believer has reception and retention but no recall of doctrine for application then divine discipline solves the problem by forcing the believer to concentrate on the doctrine in a shattering situation. God must teach and all of us must learn a certain number of lessons through suffering.

We have a choice: to learn the easy way through Bible teaching, or to learn the hard way through suffering. These are the two systems of learning in the Church Age. Biblical instruction from the pastor is God's unlimited means of communication. The spiritual orthodox pastor who teaches the Word of God line by line, verse by verse can cover the whole realm of truth, resulting in spiritual momentum and growth of the listeners.

Divine discipline is an extended opportunity to learn from God the vital lessons of the Christian life through pains and suffering. God is extending the invitation to all believers the opportunity to learn Bible doctrine in divinely designed classroom: the local church. God will continue to provide Bible doctrine where there are few positive volition believers. If there are no positive volition believers, God will withhold Bible doctrine. Such gatherings of negative volition believers are subject for collective discipline.

Collective discipline is executed against negative volition believers who have rejected Bible doctrine. It comes in forms of accident, disaster, event, or crisis that always shock the nation. In some occasion, God will bring the unbelievers who have rejected the Gospel, the carnal and reversionist believers in one place for an accident or disaster designed to take home those qualified for dying discipline and judgment by death. Carnality is contagious and easily affects the people surrounding our life. In the same way, spirituality is also contagious. Collective discipline is executed to a group of people who resolved to negative volition toward God and toward His Word.

Nobody becomes victim of decision of others. You are disciplined, because of your own bad decisions.

Characteristics of the sin unto death:

- It is a sin which persists unchecked.
- It is a sin which ignores the grace of God, warning and discipline
- It is a sin which has a maximum adverse effect on other believers (Acts 5:1-12)

Case histories of the sin unto death:

- Corinthian incest. (1 Cor. 5:1-5)
- Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-10)
- Persistent carnality (1 Cor. 11:30-31)
- Disobedience to God's Word (1 Chron. 10:13-14)
- A believer turned apostate (Num. 31:8)

Conclusion: the sin unto death is not a specific sin, but a continual carnality, out of fellowship, perpetuated for a long period of time. The grace and mercy of God are for sinners. Christ died for sinners. The gospel is sent to sinners. God saves sinners. God forgives sinners. He who is the God of glory is the God who gives grace to needy sinners (Psalm 103:8-14).

There is only one way for a perfect God to forgive sin. He can only forgive sin through the obedience and sacrifice of an all-sufficient Substitute. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's own dear Son, is that Substitute. In him, and only in him is there forgiveness with God (Rom. 3:23-26; 1 John 1:7, 9). It is only in the crucified Christ that we can behold him, as he is, "a just God and a Savior" (Isa. 45:20-22).

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Tract No. 29

A SIN UNTO DEATH

"I do not say that he shall pray for it"
(1 John 5:16)

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