

## A Sobering Exhortation

Years ago while visiting my younger brother in Hartford, Connecticut, I mentioned the dangerous condition of the highway. Then he relayed an alarming, true story. His friend had been driving to work early one day. As he began up the incline of a large bridge he noticed a car far ahead suddenly disappear. Soon after, the one behind it dropped out of sight too. He saw this as a warning flag and began to slow down as he tried to figure out what had happened. Then he realized that a central section of the bridge had fallen out! Slamming the brakes on as hard he could, his car stopped just short of the edge of disaster. Jumping out, he ran back, wildly waving his arms to warn the next driver...yelling, "Stop! The bridge is out!". When the next driver saw him, the driver gave him an obscene gesture with his hand, swerved around him, and accelerated...to his death.

Not everybody appreciates being warned, especially if it ruffles their smooth sailing, their way of thinking, and their perception of things being ok. And especially if heeding the warning means a drastic change in one's course. The prophets were persecuted and even killed for this reason. And now we are once again at a time when spiritual red flags are waving. And why? It is because we are in the transition into a new age. Old ways are passing away. We are crossing between the Church Age of Grace & Truth into the Millennial Age of His Kingdom. *Things ahead will be very different.* More of His Light is coming forth at this time. We are waking up to greater truth. We are starting to see alarming things & wondrous things. Things are not as we once thought. They are not as we were taught. We are starting to see that *things already are very different!*

This transition of ages reminds us of the time of Noah. At that time an old order vanished. A completely different, fresh, new order took its place. Today's transition of ages also reminds us of the transition between the Age of Law into the Age of Grace & Truth. That was at the time of Jesus and the outpouring of His Spirit. The old order of temple, priesthood, law, and sacrifices passed away. Even Jerusalem was gone and the nation dissolved. A new order replaced the old order. The truths of the old order were brought up into a higher dimension in Christ. A more meaningful relationship with God began. This new order became the Word, (law) by His Spirit *in a people*. They became the new temple, the new priesthood. Circumcision was now of the heart, and sacrifices were of praise from within. During the transition some saw all of this readily and moved quickly into the new order. Others were content to not change their ways. Still others tried to combine the new with the old. They could not let go of the old ways until the temple & priesthood in Jerusalem were gone. The old age had to die as the new age was born.

And now today's transition is the time spoken of in **Daniel 12**. Like the last major transition, some will understand and move on with the times of what God is doing. Others won't. Still others will try to combine the ways of both ages. The Lord told Daniel that those who acted wisely would understand. These are the ones who are

walking in the Light that they have so that they may be given more light. It was the same at the transition from the Age of the Law into the Age of Grace & Truth. Some could accept that God was doing a radical new thing in the earth. They rejoiced in it. But others could not accept that He would do something other than what their carnal minds expected.

And so it is that the Spirit has prompted me to write this blog of warning flags for this time. This exhortation is not for everyone. It is for those who are given ears to hear this message. We are quickly running out of time to prepare for the changes that are beginning to unfold more rapidly. Things will not be the same at all. The governments of man are crumbling. His government is being established in a people. We prepare by learning to hear His voice...by coming under His Kingship into His Kingdom. His government needs to be established in us.

**!!!** The first warning is that we must hear His voice and not the voice of another. His sheep hear His voice. This is the day spoken of in **Isaiah 54:13** that Jesus quoted in **John 6:44**. It is the day when the children (those not fully grown yet), can hear the voice of the Father directing them in a right way. And why? Because it is the day (Age) when the Holy Spirit has come to indwell within many people...male & female, young & old, of every nation & language. For what purpose? To be led by Him to come into His nature and maturity, (as seen in **Ephesians 4:13** & then **Hebrews 5:9** and illustrated in Lesson 10 at [www.bibleconcepts.com](http://www.bibleconcepts.com)).

*“The true children of God are those who let God’s Spirit lead them.”* **Romans 8:14**  
**New Century Version-NCV**

**!!!** Another red flag is not wanting to graduate. It is really part of the first one. We need to keep moving on. We need to keep growing. We need to keep following His Spirit as He leads us individually. He speaks to us where we are in order to lead us from there to a better place. Only His Spirit can lead us through these wilderness trials. No man can tell us what to do. To come into maturity in Christ requires change. His voice becomes clearer as we grow into the mind of Christ. This will require less of us and more of Him. It will mean leaving 3rd grade behind so that we can enter into 4th grade. It means not going back to elementary school once we get to High School. Elementary school was beautiful in its time, but it is not the place to be when its time to start High School.

To grow in Christ means to pay attention to our calling...to His fresh bread (Word) that speaks to us each day. This growing means not forsaking the assembling with those who are moving on up into a higher life in Christ. His Spirit works through us to help each other along. Read all of **Hebrews 10** to get the context of the often-misinterpreted verse 25. To the carnal mind this verse speaks of being sure to gather in a building at scheduled times. To the spiritual mind it means both to listen to God speaking within and through others...to keep moving on up into Christ with those who are seeking more of Him. And when He does speak through

others we also get His witness within that it is His voice speaking. As we seek Him we come to hear Him.

*“I love those loving me, And those seeking me earnestly do find me.”* **Proverbs 8:17 Young’s Literal Translation-YLT**

**!!!** We must keep our eyes on Christ Jesus, our leader & instructor, (See **Hebrews 12:2** in the **The Living Bible**). We must not have our heart & focus shift to a man or to an organization or to a system of man with its programs, rituals & works. It is rare when any of these are directed by His Spirit. Also avoid such things as doctrines of man that the Word warns us about. The three major false doctrines (ways/beliefs) that we are warned about in the Word are:

1. Doctrine of Balaam, (**2Peter 2:15 & Jude 1:11 & Revelation 2:14**)
2. Doctrine of Nicolaitans, (**Revelation 2:15**)
3. Doctrine of Jezebel, (**Revelation 2:20-24**)

This last one (but really all three in the context of that same chapter in Revelation), is/are referred to as “the depths of Satan”, meaning the core of the carnal mind...the center of what opposes God...the root of the adversary...in us. These three doctrines are the foundation of what is so easily believed when we do not hear His Spirit...when we do not hear His voice within us individually...when we are listening to the voice of the stranger. I would summarize these three false doctrines as:

1. We really need money (payment/reward), to get things done, (the love of money).
2. We really need people in charge to run things & to tell us what to do.
3. We really can compromise with the ways of the world a lot and that’s ok.

As for the first false doctrine, (of Balaam):

*“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money [for one will become the focus at the cost to the other].”* **Matthew 6:24 The New International Version-TNIV**

*“The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people [like Balaam] have left the faith, because they wanted to get more money, but they have caused themselves much sorrow [in the long run].”* **1 Timothy 6:10 NCV**

*“..You will not succeed by your own strength [means] or power [organization, wealth, numbers], but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD All-Powerful.”* **Zechariah 4:6 NCV**

As for the second false doctrine, (of Nicolaitans):

“Nicolaitans” is from the Strong’s Concordance Greek word #G3531 which is made up of two main parts. They are “Nikos” & “Laos”. “Nikos” means “a conquest, victory, or triumph over the conquered, and by implication, those who are dominant over the defeated.” “Laos” means “people”. Together they mean “one who is victorious/in control/ruler over the people”. And so we have the leaders and those who serve the leaders...”them & us”...the pope & the people, the “church bosses” & their congregation...those who lead as distinct from those who follow. What the Lord hates about this belief is that people start following a man and thereby stop following the leading of His Spirit. Christ Jesus is our shepherd.

But doesn’t it say that to some are given to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, **pastors**, and teachers? Not exactly. There are two main references on this. Let’s look at them in context and see what they actually do say:

*“...4. one body and one Spirit, according as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; 5. one Lord, one faith [not one organization], one baptism [into Him by water, spirit, & fire], 6. one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, AND IN YOU ALL, 7. AND TO EACH ONE OF YOU was given the grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ, 8. wherefore, he saith, ‘Having gone up on high he led captive captivity, and gave gifts to men,’ -- 9. and that, he went up, what is it except that he also went down first to the lower parts of the earth? 10. he who went down is the same also who went up far above all the heavens, that He may fill all things-- 11. and He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as proclaimers of good news, (evangelists) and some as shepherds and teachers, [some of the ones most noted among many others, ALL OF WHICH ARE] 12. UNTO THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS, for a work of ministration, for a building up of the body of the Christ, 13. TILL WE MAY ALL COME TO THE UNITY OF THE FAITH AND OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE SON OF GOD, TO A PERFECT MAN, TO A MEASURE OF STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF THE CHRIST, 14. that we may no more be babes, tossed and borne about by every wind of the teaching, in the sleight of men, in craftiness, unto the artifice of leading astray, 15. and, being true in love, WE MAY INCREASE TO HIM IN ALL THINGS, WHO IS THE HEAD--THE CHRIST; 16. from whom the whole body, being fitly joined together and united, through the supply of every joint, ACCORDING TO THE WORKING IN THE MEASURE OF EACH SINGLE PART, the increase of the body doth make FOR THE BUILDING UP OF ITSELF IN LOVE.”* **Ephesians 4**  
**Young’s Literal Translation-YLT**

*“27. All of you together are Christ’s body, and EACH OF YOU IS A PART OF IT.  
28. HERE ARE SOME OF THE PARTS [most noticed that] God has appointed for the church:*

*first are apostles,  
second are prophets,*

*third are teachers,  
then those who do miracles,  
those who have the gift of healing,  
those who can help others,  
those who have the gift of leadership,  
those who speak in unknown languages [and many other parts...including  
the ones that are not so readily noticed].*

*29. Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? 30. Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! 31. So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts [noticed or not]. But now let me show you a way of life [to express your part] that is best of all [...the way of Love].”* **1 Corinthians 12 New Living Translation-NLT**

Here is what both scripture passages say:

Each part...each one of us, has a vital part...by His Spirit.

He will let us know our part, equip us for it, then work it through us.

The goal is to bring each one of us into maturity, into union with Christ.

Every one of us has a special expression of His Love for Him & for each other.

As we operate in our part in Christ we come into deeper intimacy with Him.

As a by-product of coming into closer union with Him, we also come into deeper intimacy with others who are in this union, for He is leading us unto the same Lord, the same faith, the same life in Christ.

This all flows by His Spirit. It is the law of liberty in Christ, (See **Galatians 5:1-13**). It is such a delight when we know our part and let His life come forth in that area to minister life to Him & to others. And our part tomorrow may be different than our part today. And the part of one today is likely not the part of another today. Everything is beautiful in its time. We each are His workmanship uniquely created for certain good works to let Him do through us...that His love & life may grow in us as it is imparted to others.

*“God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do [certain] good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.”* **Ephesians 2:10 NCV**

And yes, of course we are to cover others for a time. Husbands & wives cover each other, and their children, and sometimes their parents as well. Employers & employees cover each other. And in the Lord we cover each other in His Love. And there are times when He shepherds others through us. The difference is whether it is done in the flesh nature or in His Spirit as He directs. It is not to be “a one-man show”. The focus is to be Christ Jesus. A distinction is seen below.

*“Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.” 1 Peter 5:3 NLT*

So in summary, why does God hate the doctrine of the Nicolaitans? It chokes off his life and replaces it with following a man or system of man. It keeps us from growing in Christ. It preoccupies us with religious works of the flesh. It is “instead-of-Christ”. Here are some red flags of where this Nicolaitan belief operates.:

...where you are asked:

*Who is your covering?* (Why I say, isn’t it Christ Jesus?)

*Who is your pastor?* (Why, isn’t Christ Jesus my shepherd?)

*Who are you submitted to?* (Why, I’m submitted to His Spirit directly and also by His Spirit speaking through the other parts of His Body)  
(See **Ephesians 5:21**).

*What church do you go to?* (Why, I’m part of the church of the firstborn, the general assembly enrolled in heaven along with those others who are made perfect in Christ, (See **Hebrews 12:23**). The Lord is connecting us by His Spirit in what is called “The Wire Church”...no big names, no leaders other than Him, no central organization or programs or buildings or salaries or budgets or schedules or agendas of man.) For more on “The Wire Church”, read Jackie’s study No. 280 found on the Resources Page of this website, ([www.bibleconcepts.com](http://www.bibleconcepts.com)).

*But where do you fellowship?* (Why, with His people everywhere as He has us come across each other’s paths...plus through the “Wire Church”.

*What about worship?* (Why, I worship every day with the deep inner joy of His life calling out as deep calls unto deep.)

*So, where do you tithe?* (Why, I am the tithe! I am all his. ALL that He has placed into my stewardship is His. I manage the time & resources that He has entrusted to my care as He directs).

I’ll be the first to say that hearing His voice does not always come easy. My carnal mind keeps trying to take the reins. And it’s much easier to just listen to someone who seems spiritual who will tell me what to do. I am still learning as I grow into the mind of Christ. But...I have tasted of His Life and now cannot settle for less!

Now here are some other warning signs that help to identify where the doctrine of the Nicolaitans lives:

Where there is an effort to keep one from coming into further light. This is seen in any group that steers people away from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is also seen in any group that stays silent on the teaching of Sonship. That includes going on to perfection in spite of the many examples in the Word on moving into perfection. That would be a rabbit trail now, but they are easy to search out. (Both teachings are often perceived as a threat to the control by church organizational leaders.)

This effort to keep the flock from moving on is often done with good intentions of “protecting the sheep from the wolves”. Whose sheep are they? Isn’t the shepherd capable of doing that? And so there is an effort to fence people in. Here are some of those red flag fences:

“Don’t read that!”

“Don’t listen to that!”

“Don’t go there!”

“Stick to one Bible translation, and I’ll tell you which one.”

“Don’t spiritualize the Word. It’s meant to be taken literally.”

The teaching and preaching must all come from those within the organization.

Accusations of independence, rebellion, being deceived or worst.

Other tactics including: fear, guilt, intimidation, peer pressure, social pressure, financial pressure, appealing to pride, emphasizing works, legalism, and submission to the leaders & to the group.

All of this is a form of godliness, but denies the power of the life of Christ coming forth in a people. From such run away! (See **2 Timothy 3:5**).

The third false doctrine is the one of Jezebel. It is one of compromising, of mixture, or appealing to the flesh nature while being told one is spiritual. Part of this belief is the familiar echo from the garden, “you surely will not die”. The fear of God is quenched, as is His Spirit. Various forms of iniquity are the fruit of this doctrine, including immorality, witchcraft, and control. This doctrine can be very subtle and seductive.

All three of these doctrines work in harmony so they are often seen together in a religious group. They work in harmony because *they all stem from roots of idolatry*. This is why they are all mentioned in the same chapter of Revelation as warnings to believers. And we must be careful that the idolatrous roots of these doctrines do not grab a foothold in our hearts. Let us encourage one another on the right path...the mind of Christ. There is a wrong path. The wrong path is the way of the carnal mind. It seems to be the way to go (where most are headed), but there’s just one problem with going that way...the bridge is out!

*“16 and what agreement to the sanctuary of God with idols? for ye are a sanctuary of the living God, according as God said-- `I will dwell in them, and will walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people,*

*17 wherefore, come ye forth out of the midst of them, and be separated, saith the Lord, and an unclean thing [the dead religious works of the flesh nature] do not touch, and I--I will receive you,*

*18 and I will be to you for a Father, and ye--ye shall be to Me for sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.’ “ 2 Corinthians 6 YLT*

For an in-depth study on these three doctrines (with their idolatrous roots), you may get further insight from Charles E. Newbold, Jr.'s book, "The Harlot Church System, 'Come Out of her, My People'". The Kindle version is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). The printed copies can be found at Ingathering Press, PO Box 31795, Knoxville, TN 37930-1795.

*This message may be copied & distributed in print or electronically (at the leading of His Spirit), when not for sale or profit.*

**Eric & Mary Elizabeth Ellis**

**PO Box 400**

**Easton, ME 04740**

[ericandmaryellis@gmail.com](mailto:ericandmaryellis@gmail.com)

[www.bibleconcepts.com](http://www.bibleconcepts.com)

(which is where this "Sobering Exhortation" may be found (under the Blog section), for downloading and/or printing)