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God allowed me to write an article a few years ago about spiritual covering. I never thought that this article would become so popular on the net. There seems to be a profound question within the Body of Christ. Many believers are wondering: what is the true definition of spiritual covering? They also desire to see some kind of boundary placed around this subject. I believe many are tired of the unrighteous treatment they receive from those I call “The Number Ones.”

Since the writing of the first article, we have seen even more pastors and Christian leaders who have fallen into horrible sins. Unfortunately, we have not learned from those who have fallen in the past because there is not any real relational covering going on. Why are there so many ministers still falling today? Why have we not learned from past experiences? How can we make a change?

Ministers are still falling into sin for several reasons. One reason is pride. Pride is and always has been a continual battle for leaders.

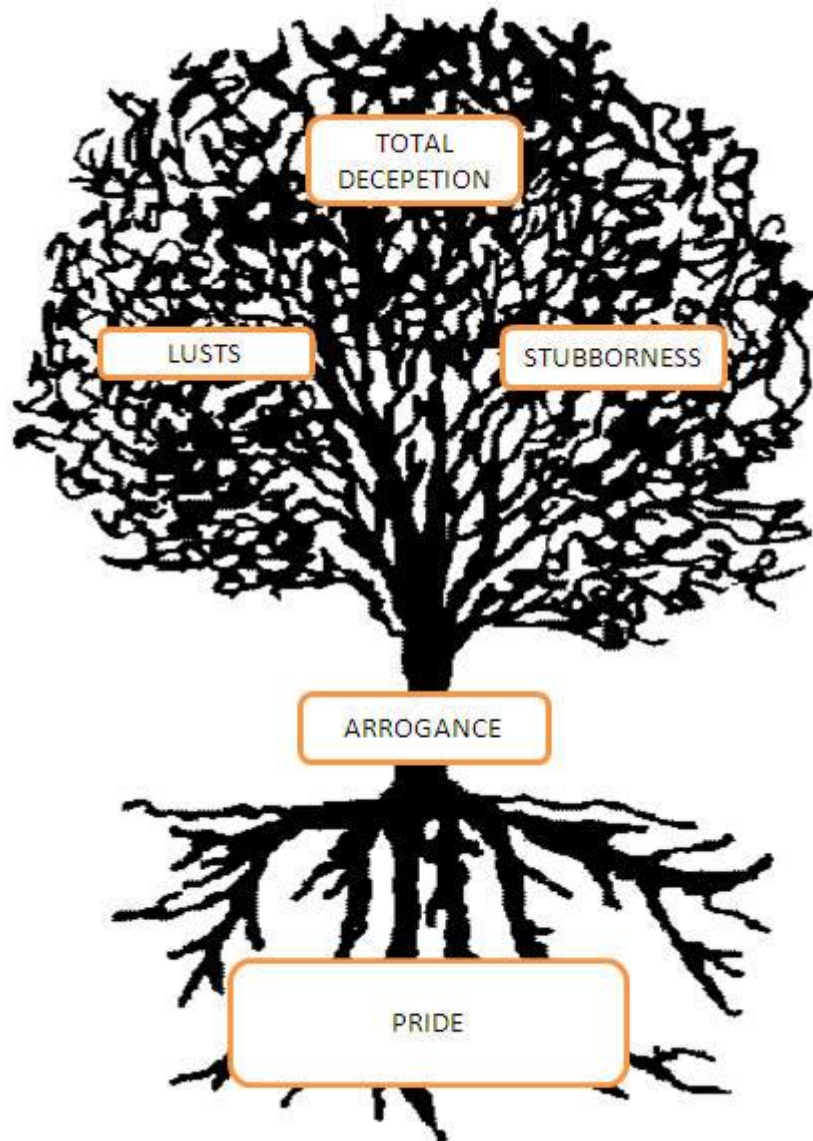
Proverbs 16:18 states, “Pride precedes a disaster, and an arrogant attitude precedes a fall.” (GOD'S WORD)

Here is a definition of pride:

Pride refers to a strong sense of self-respect, a refusal to be humiliated as well as joy in the accomplishments of oneself or a person, group, or object that one identifies with.

(en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pride)

Pride is the lack of humility within one's life. The "Number Ones" have allowed the heart of humility to be extracted from them. We should never think too highly of ourselves. We are nothing without the power of Christ living within us. Look below for an idea of how pride grows into something bigger.



Many of us forget about our enemy. Satan and his demons are out to destroy believers in any way possible. With greater authority comes greater temptation. Before Jesus entered into the next level of his ministry, he had to go through the wilderness and face a period of temptation.

“Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1 GOD’S WORD).

I have noticed that with greater responsibility comes the doorway for stronger temptations. Temptations and trials are supposed to keep us humbled and balanced with the Lord.

We are not learning from past experiences because most believers like having their leaders represent them before God. It is easier to let someone else be spiritual and close to God. Most believers desire to have only a certain amount of spiritual discipline in their lives.

“The LORD said to Moses, "I am coming to you in a storm cloud so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always believe you." Moses told the LORD what the people had said. So the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people, and tell them they have two days to get ready. They must set themselves apart as holy. Have them wash their clothes and be ready by the day after tomorrow. On that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch. Mark off a boundary around the mountain for the people, and tell them not to go up the mountain or even touch it. Those who touch the mountain must be put to death. “(Exodus 19:9-12 GOD’S WORD)

The people of Israel could have had a close relationship with the Lord, but instead entrusted this to Moses. They were comfortable letting Moses be their liaison with God. God ordained this leadership structure in the Old Testament due to Israel’s lack of surrender. Each Old Testament leader was preparing the way for Jesus to come. When Jesus came, died, and rose again, he gave us a way back to the Lord. NOW! Every believer can have a genuine relationship with the Lord Almighty. NOW! Yet today, many believers leave it to their leader or pastor. How many believers leave the faith when a leader falls? They leave because their faith is not solid. It is in man rather than in the living God. As believers we have a voice. We can make a stand against the corruption we see

behind the pulpit. We have to first start with our own lifestyle and way of thinking towards our pastor. It is well past time for a true paradigm shift within the church. We do need to respect and help serve alongside the leaders in our churches. However, we need to demand true accountability.

“On the morning of the second day, there was thunder and lightning with a heavy cloud over the mountain, and a very loud blast from a ram's horn was heard. All the people in the camp shook with fear. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.”(Exodus 19:16, 17 GOD’S WORD)

Relational Covering

We talked a little about relational covering in the last article. I wanted to elaborate more on this subject. True spiritual covering is comprised of the relationships we are in. The kingdom of God consists of relationships. You cannot have an empire or a kingdom without relationships. The Gospel of Jesus can only be spread through the relationships we have. How are relationships built? Why are they so important?

Relationships are built through patience and a willingness of heart. Paul the apostle was a master at relationships. He did not have a problem sharing those relationships with the Body of Christ. Paul used these relationships as indicators of spiritual covering to the churches and of Paul himself.

“I'm sending Tychicus to you. He is our dear brother, trustworthy deacon, and partner in the Lord's work. He will tell you everything that is happening to me.

I'm sending him to you so that you may know how we are doing and so that he may encourage you. I'm sending Onesimus with him. Onesimus is from your city and is our faithful and dear

brother. They will tell you about everything that's happening here. “(Colossians 4:7-9 GOD’S WORD)”

Paul declared that Tychicus would bring word and confirmation of the persecution Paul was facing. The church of Colosse would connect with Paul through the relationship he had with Tychicus. Many ministers can’t understand this simple truth. God has not called the “Number Ones” to do everything themselves. Our ministries become great by the people we are willing to pour into. Paul could not go to the church of Colosse, so he sent the next best thing. He sent someone with his heart. He sent someone with whom he had a relationship with.

This is not a new concept. Jesus taught it. The Apostles taught it. It is the word of God in its simplest form. Spiritual covering is truly defined by the relationships we keep. The stronger the relationships the stronger the accountability we give and get. You can’t get true spiritual covering by hiding in your local mega-church. Nor can you get spiritual covering by doing church your own way.

Building relationships are a risky business. You do risk getting hurt emotionally. Some you build with might even betray you, but this should never stop you from pressing forward. You have to be led by the Spirit and build those relationships which sharpen you and you sharpen others.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens the wits of another.” (Proverbs 27:17 GOD’S WORD)”

Divine Government:

Some senior leaders reading this article might shake in fear because this kind of message could possibly cause a revolt. My intention is not to cause a revolt but to put things back into the right perspective. I believe partially in the Armor Bearer message. I believe God has a Divine Government as well. I wrote a whole manual

on this subject. There is a Divine Government. God gave us ministry gifts in Ephesians 4.

“He also gave apostles, prophets, missionaries, as well as pastors and teachers as gifts to his church. “
(Ephesians 4:11 GOD’S WORD)

However, we seem to end the conversation here. There is a reason for the 5 ministry gifts. Each gift is supposed to work closely with the Body of Christ, so the Body of Christ can reach the world.

“He makes the whole body fit together and unites it through the support of every joint. As each and every part does its job, he makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. “
(Ephesians 4:16 GOD’S WORD)

God’s Divine Government is for the Body of Christ to become something great. The Kingdom of God is not in the hands of your senior pastor. This Kingdom has been given to us and it is us. The paradigm shift in this hour is for the Body of Christ to arise. It is time to awaken the sleeping giant. Every believer needs to be working for our Master.

This means building relationships with those leaders God has put in our lives. It means building relationships with other believers. It means allowing those relationships to produce something tangible for God’s Kingdom.

The Divine Government is there to keep us in check. It is there to keep the Body functioning in this world.

“God's purpose was that the body should not be divided but rather that all of its parts should feel the same concern for each other. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering. If one part is praised, all the others share in its happiness. You are Christ's body and each of you is an individual part of it. In the church God has appointed first apostles, next prophets, third teachers, then those who perform miracles, then those who have the gift of healing, then those who help others, those who are managers, and those who can speak in a number of languages.

Not all believers are apostles, are they? Are all of them prophets? Do all of them teach? Do all of them perform miracles or have gifts of healing? Can all of them speak in other languages or interpret languages? You only want the better gifts, but I will show you the best thing to do.” (1 Corinthians 12:25-31 GOD’S WORD)

The greatest witness we can give to the world is our unity. When the world sees each part of the Body working together, then we will see an awesome move of God’s Spirit. God chooses our part in His kingdom. We simply have to be content to follow His plan for our lives. One gift or calling is not greater than another. If you are called to be a deacon and some else is called to be an apostle in your church, and then be content with this. If you are a pastor, be the best pastor you can be. If you are the church janitor, be the best janitor you can be before the Lord. If you are a house-church pastor, then be the best house-church pastor you can be. Don’t try to esteem yourself to be like someone else. We must work together within our callings to see His kingdom come and His will be done. We should follow our leadership. We should help serve alongside of them. It is not about the leader. It is about the Kingdom!!! If you have a good leader in your life, then serve with him or her. God’s Divine Government is for order and structure. We should follow this truth. However, don’t become blind to or distant from the actions of your leadership. Always make sure each leader in your life has accountability partners. This is important. We should hold each other to a higher standard.

I have the greatest hope in the Body of Christ. I long for the day when revivals are implemented by average believers. I long to see the gifts of the Spirit operating in each son and daughter of God. This is the key to true Spiritual Covering.

