

The Spirit of Violence

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Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Genesis 6:11-13 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence (hamas). And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence (hamas) through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Ezekiel 8:17-18 Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Ezekiel 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

- I. Violence is one of the main concerns of people in any time.
 - A. The world has been a violent place ever since sin entered into this world.
 - B. It is never completely absent, but it has waxed and waned in its intensity throughout history.
 - C. There was only one time in history so far that the earth has been “filled with violence” and that was Noah’s day.
 - D. Jesus told us that just before his second coming the world will be like Noah’s day, which includes the fact that it will be filled with violence.
 - E. As the world looks on at the spiraling violence everywhere they are fearful about what is going to happen.

- II. The basic definition of violence is to do wrong, to cheat, to damage.
 - A. It is translated in the Old Testament in many different ways.
 1. Cruelty, wrong, to be an unrighteous witness, false witness, injustice, oppress.
 - B. It’s root and motive must be distinguished from the response it demands.
 - C. To fight fire with fire is not necessarily from the same motive and cause as the violent have.
 - D. There is a great difference in the violent man and peaceful man.
 1. The violent man desires violence, loves it, thrives on it, and enjoys it.
 2. The peaceful man hates violence, empathizes with the victims of violence, and does everything in his power to avoid violence.
 - E. There is a spirit involved here, and it is the spirit that worketh in children of disobedience.

- F. Anyone that is not possessed by the spirit of violence can discern between the violent man and the peaceful man.
 - 1. It is to discern between good and evil; bad guys and good guys.
 - G. However, those that are possessed with the spirit of violence cannot discern between the two.
 - 1. To them fighting fire with fire is the same thing as unprovoked violence.
 - 2. To them there is no such thing as a good guy.
 - 3. To them the violent offender is the victim if anyone tries to stop him or punish him.
- III. This spirit of violence has been in the world since sin entered into the world.
- A. Cain killed his brother Abel – that is violence.
 - B. This spirit of violence enters into a person when their pride is hurt, or their selfish interests are denied or delayed.
 - C. Many times it is through a misunderstanding or an outright lie and is therefore based upon nothing real, and it is simply an imagination, that leads to suspicion, and then turns to hatred.
 - D. This spirit grows and gains control of the mind and the heart until it takes over the life.
 - 1. Violence can fill a soul.
 - 2. Violence can fill a home, a nation, and then the world.
 - E. What we are seeing now is people whose souls are filled with violence, who not only have no problem killing, butchering, and torturing other people, but enjoy doing it and are proud of it, and want others to see them doing it.
 - F. Before the earth is filled with violence it must reach a flash point, like boiling water.
 - 1. The spirit of violence works like boiling water; it progresses slowly until it reaches a certain point and then it begins to boil.
 - 2. It is like cancer that begins in one cell and then spreads and by the time you are aware of it's presence it has become such a force to reckon with that it is a fight to the death to conquer it.
 - 3. The spirit of violence slowly takes over; it is contagious; and most answer violence immediately with violence.
 - 4. When children hear this kind of thinking and see it in the lives of parents, and others, it quickly becomes their way of dealing with life and others.
 - 5. When a whole generation is immersed in violence through video games, movies, and that influence on those around them we are in real trouble right away.
 - G. Violence is the fruit of sin and sin always leads there.
 - 1. Someone is going to get hurt, and it is going to be much more hurt than anyone anticipated.
 - 2. In Noah's day the earth was filled with violence, and preceded by corruption.
 - 3. The mouth of the wicked is covered with it.
 - 4. It is the basic character of Satan himself.
 - 5. It is madness.
 - 6. It is always justified in the mind of the violent.
 - 7. Even though he would not want it done to him, he is convinced he is right to do it to others.

- IV. When violence fills a soul, a mind, a heart, a home, a nation, or the world, it becomes the motive behind everything.
- A. To look at everyone as a potential enemy is to be under the influence of the spirit of violence.
 - 1. Would not the law of charity cause a person to look at everyone as a potential friend?
 - B. The very desire to see someone else hurt is the influence of that spirit of violence.
 - 1. No matter what they have done, revenge does not fit with charity that beareth all things, endureth all things.

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

- C. The violent spirit takes the reins of the mind and heart and runs on hatred, envy, suspicion, anger and bitterness toward others.
 - D. They look at the world around them and everyone in it as every man's hand is against me and I am against every man.
 - E. Every perceived offense must be immediately avenged and blood must be drawn.
- V. To use force to stop violent people is not violence because it is not done with a desire to hurt and destroy, but to save and preserve life and peace.
- A. When those not possessed with the spirit must rise up to stop it they will not stop it without fighting fire with fire.
 - 1. This is not the same spirit, but a righteous cause demands action.
 - B. It is not violence to stop with force a violent person who is hurting, or threatening to hurt others – that is righteousness.
 - 1. It is the same thing as putting down a mad dog; there is nothing else that can be done except let him destroy everyone and everything.
 - C. It is not a violent spirit that causes men to rise up against evil and put a stop to it.
 - D. But it is a violent spirit if that is the first recourse;
 - E. Good people will only rise up and use force as a last resort and that gives the evil time to strengthen and fortify itself, and this is what makes it so costly.
- VI. We are living in a world that is reaching the boiling point with this spirit of violence.
- A. Watch yourself; check your spirit; be led by the Spirit of God and do not allow this spirit of violence to gain a foothold in your mind and heart.
 - B. Don't allow the prevailing spirit of violence to influence your thinking and perception of what is true and what is not.
 - C. Avoid violent people.
 - D. Avoid violent influences on your mind and heart.
 - 1. Movies and entertainment of any kind where you watch violence and blood and gore and evil things being done to others.
 - 2. Video games where you not only watch the violence, but are participating in it.
 - 3. Sports where violence is the main attraction.
 - E. The fullness of violence is described in Proverbs:

Proverbs 30:11-14 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.