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# The Substitute Church (The Loss of Authority)

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Witnessing the Church of Jesus

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: Witnessing the Church of Jesus: The Substitute Church (The Loss of Authority)***

Current Series Messages:

- Theme Scripture: Matthew 16: <sup>18</sup>And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- Subject: **The Church of Love** (Remembering, Returning, Restoring)
- Subject: **The Church of Persecution** (Suffering for Righteousness, Kingdom, Christ)
- Subject: **The Worldly Church** (Beware of Enemies Bearing Gifts, Offering Help, Bringing Peace)

**Lesson Text**

Revelation 2:18-29 (KJV)<sup>18</sup>And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; <sup>19</sup>I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

<sup>20</sup>Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. <sup>21</sup>And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. <sup>22</sup>Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup>And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. <sup>24</sup>But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. <sup>25</sup>But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come. <sup>26</sup>And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: <sup>27</sup>And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. <sup>28</sup>And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup>He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**Introduction**

In Matthew 16:18, the Church is so powerful that Jesus declares taht the gates of hell shall not prevail against. But by the time we get to Revelations, the Church has lost its power. So Christ addresses this loss to 7 churches in Asia Minor.

1. The Church at Ephesus (The Church that had left its First Love)
2. The Church at Smyrna (The Church that was willing to Suffer for Christ's Sake)
3. The Church at Pergamos (The Worldly Church)
4. The Church at Thyatira (The Substitute Church that's lost its Authority)
5. The Church at Sardis (The Dead Church)
6. The Church at Philadelphia (The Revived Church)
7. The Church at Laodicea (The Worthless Church)

Today we want to look at the forth Church at Thyatira, which had loss it's authority!

The Church in Thyatira was known as the church of continual sacrifice

## The Substitute Church (The Loss of Authority)

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Revelation 2: <sup>19</sup>I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

Although this church was commended for its Works, Love, Faith, Ministry, and Patience; it was filled with evil, and its condemnation was severe!

Revelation 2: <sup>20</sup>Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Historically, Jezebel was the wife of Ahab and the source of idolatry in Israel. Balaam attacked Israel from without; she, from within. She was responsible for the worst idolatry in the nation, and she persecuted the servants of God. This happened because she usurped, seized, or took authority over her husband. This same spirit is now in the church.

Ephesians 5: <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

One of the ways the enemy attacks marriages is to usurps authority over the husband, the head; and here we see him doing the same with the marriage of the Christ and the Church.

The church is no longer being led by Christ, the Kingdom of God is no longer the object of our affection. Too many churches have allowed the prince of the air and the cares of this world to become the object of their affections!

- Colossians 3: <sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
- Mark 4:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

With the previous church in Pergamos, the Church was tolerating and sleeping with the enemy. But now that then enemy has moved in, he's not content just to be a member sitting in the pews; he wants to take over the leadership of the church, usurping the authority of Christ.

“Don't let the devil Ride, if you let him ride, he'll want to drive!”

The downward spiral of the church so far has gone from hating the enemy, to being persecuted by the enemy, to tolerating and sleeping with the enemy; and now being led by the enemy!

A lot of people are going to church, but they are not being delivered and set free because the enemy has come into the church and replaced our savior.

The enemy had become the Substituted Leader of the Church; and when the Church loses its Leader, it loses its Savior, it loses its Authority!

### **Series and Sermon: Witnessing the Church of Jesus: The Substitute Church (The Loss of Authority)**

“Appointed or Anointed, Seduced or Holy, Defiled or Sanctified”

## ***I. Self-Appointed or God Anointed (The Authority of The Anointing)***

Revelation 2:20 (KJV)<sup>20</sup>Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

She called herself prophet, in other words, she appointed herself.

The ways of the world is about obtaining power through appointments. This spirit comes from Satan himself who tried to exalt himself about the thrown of God.

This spirit exist today where people will do anything and say anything for a position. We are taught to admire power, position, celebrity, stardom.

And if a person can't get an appointment, they will literally appoint themselves. We have more Bishops, more Apostles, more Prophets, more people that have left and appointed themselves because they wanted position.

But The church within the Kingdom of God was never about Positions and Appointing, but about the Spirit and serving with an Anointing.

### **Don't Lose the Authority of Your Anointing**

Matthew 16:17-18 (KJV)<sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**  
<sup>18</sup>And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1 Samuel 16:7 (KJV)<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

When you seek after positions, or appoint yourself, you exercise God out of the process. The leaders may look good in their appointments, but they will not be good without God anointment!

“Don't Go After the Appointed, Go After the Anointed!”

## ***II. Seducing Spirit or Holy Spirit (The Authority of The Truth)***

The second issue in this church deals with the spirit of operation.

Revelation 2:20 (KJV)<sup>20</sup>Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, **to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**

In this church where the Savior has been substituted, the spirit operating in the church has also been substituted.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (KJV)<sup>1</sup>Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; <sup>2</sup>Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NLT)<sup>1</sup>Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow lying spirits and teachings that come from demons. <sup>2</sup>These teachers are hypocrites and liars. They pretend to be religious, but their consciences are dead.

A Seducing Spirit is a Lying Spirit that is used to manipulate people because there is no truth to motivate people.

The problem is people would rather fall for a lie than to believe in the truth!

### **Don't Lose the Authority of The Truth**

When Jesus came to his disciples, he said come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men. He didn't try to fool them, didn't promise them riches, didn't promise to make to feel good; he simply offered them the word, the truth!

If you can't get it telling the truth, then you don't need it!

John 14:1-6 (KJV)<sup>1</sup>Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. <sup>4</sup>And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. <sup>5</sup>Thomas saith unto him, Lord, ... how can we know the way? <sup>6</sup>Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

John 17:17 (KJV)<sup>17</sup>Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 8:32 (KJV)<sup>32</sup>And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 15:26 (KJV)<sup>26</sup>But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

“Don't fall for a lie when you have the truth!”

### **III. Defiled Body or Sanctified Body (The Authority of the Sanctified)**

Revelation 2:20 (KJV)<sup>20</sup>Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants **to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**

To Prevent the Loss of Authority in the Church

- **Don't Lose the Authority of The Anointing**
- **Don't Lose the Authority of The Truth**
- **Don't Lose the Authority of The Sanctified**

Anytime the Holy is Usurped, the Unholy moves in. This always brings about perversion and defilement of that which is sanctified!

These churches don't just fall because of bad leadership; there is always a sex scandal, sexual immorality, homosexuality, infidelity to marriage.

Satan always wants to defile that which God has sanctified and made holy!

## **Don't Lose the Authority of The Sanctified**

Leviticus 20:<sup>7</sup>Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I *am* the LORD your God.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (KJV)<sup>18</sup>**Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. <sup>19</sup>What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you***, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <sup>20</sup>**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

<sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)<sup>23</sup>And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Substitute Church (The Loss of Authority))

### Lesson Text

Revelation 2:18-29

### Sermon Outline

- I. Self-Appointed or God Anointed (The Authority of The Anointing)
- II. Seducing Spirit or Holy Spirit (The Authority of The Truth)
- III. Defiled Body or Sanctified Body (The Authority of the Sanctified)

### Questions

#### I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Have you ever been put in a situation where your Christian principles collided with business practices on your job? How did you justify your actions?
2. Has someone who is living ungodly accused you of “judging them?” What was your response?

#### II. Into the Bible

1. David is an example of being God-anointed and not Self-appointed, *1 Samuel 16:12b-13a*, “<sup>12</sup> ...And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward...”. How did David’s previous occupation and experiences prepare him for his divine assignment?
2. In the Bible, God brings to light the different characteristics of the Holy Spirit by using various symbols. What symbols does God use to describe His Holy Spirit?
3. Romans 12:1 says we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. In the Old Testament, animals were sacrificed. What did the Old Testament sacrifices have in common with Jesus, our Ultimate Sacrifice?

#### III. Life Application

1. What advice would you give to a member of the church in Thyatira who asked you how he or she could determine whether what is presented as teaching is from a seducing spirit or the Holy Spirit?
2. In the lesson text, find and state the reasons that a sincere believer in Christ should **not** just walk away from church altogether in the face of their being immorality and idolatry in the church.