

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 6:10-13

Lesson #43

Two dimensions

06/10/2018

This will be the first of a number of lessons on "spiritual warfare".

1. The **foundation** of Biblical teaching on spiritual warfare.
2. The **"Devil's playbook"** from Gen.3 and Matt.4, 2 Cor.2
3. The **"Spirit's defense"** of Eph.6:10-20.
4. **Side bar issues:** exorcism, territorial demons, deliverance ministry, etc.

1

Ephesians

"Spiritual warfare"

6:10-20

"Social responsibility"

ch.4-6

"Positional security"

ch.1-3

2

Ephesians

Stand **Stand firm** fight"

6:10-20

Walkin **Put off / put on** the light"

ch.4-6

Seate **Remember** night"

ch.1-3

3

The first and most important element of spiritual warfare

1. It is not the place where we start - it is the place where we finish.
2. Our security "in Christ", (we are passive) **calls us to** live a holy life in our relationships, (we are active) **putting us** at odds with a broken world in which we will struggle.

Struggling is a sign that we are "walking in a manner" consistent with our calling "in Christ", "putting off" the old life (after the course of this world) and "putting on" the new.

4

1 Peter 4:12

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;"

1 Peter 5

"8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."

5

The framework of spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is not against **flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the **spiritual forces** of wickedness in the **heavenly places**.”

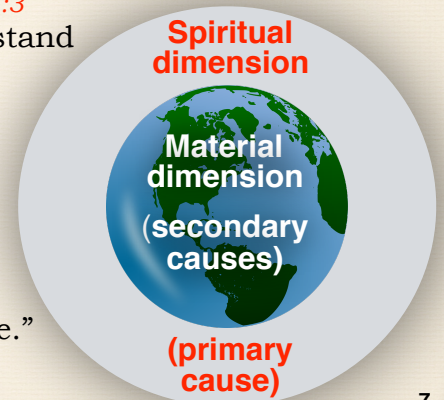
1. Two dimensions - material / spiritual

6

1. Two dimensions

Hebrews 11:3

“By faith understand that the worlds were prepared by **the word of God**, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

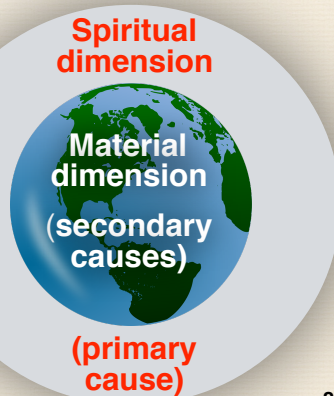


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1. Two dimensions

Exodus 14:21

“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD swept the sea back **by a strong east wind** all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided.”

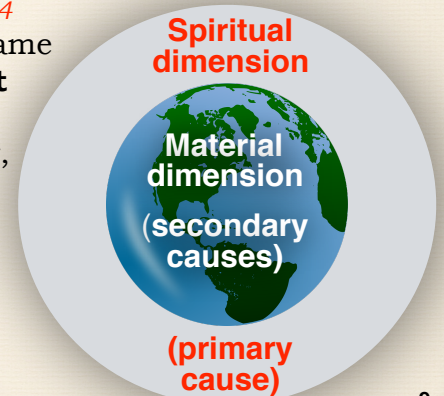


8

1. Two dimensions

John 1:14

“**The Word**, became **flesh**, and dwelt **among us**, and we saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

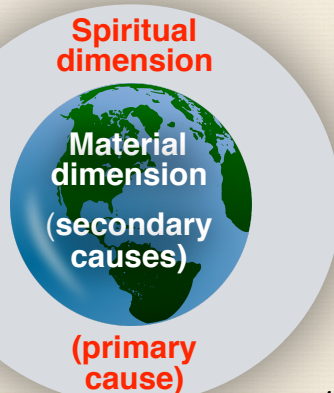


9

1. Two dimensions

Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is not against **flesh and blood**, but . . . against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the **heavenly places**.”



10

“You don’t have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.”

Mere Christianity

C.S. Lewis



11

1. Two dimensions

Blinded by the material dimension:

1. Reality can be **reduced** to a temporal, material, historical explanation.
2. Religion is simply an archaic **facade** for socio-economic-political issues.

But many believe that there are phenomena in this world and longings in the human heart that are hard to explain apart from the spiritual dimension.

12

Hierarchy of human needs

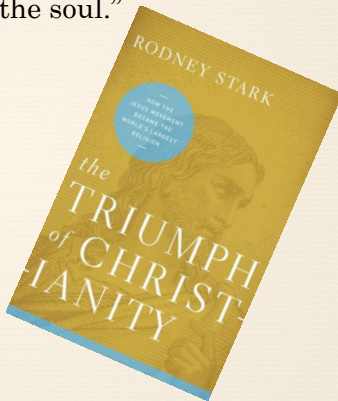
Abraham Maslow



13

“Christianity spread not just among the poor who sought hope beyond the material suffering of this life but also among the rich who found that material wealth could not satisfy the soul.”

Rodney Stark



14

Where does the nearly “universal” religious impulse come from?

Where does the sense of “good & evil” originate?

For example, what about:

- **Mortality** - why do we die?
- **Meaning** - why do we live?
- **Morality** - why do we love?
- **Management** - why do we fail?

15

As humans we are incurably RELIGIOUS, grounding our lives on faith based presuppositions.

- This includes but extends beyond formal institutional religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, etc.) to embrace metaphysical materialism, secular humanism, etc.
- Presuppositions are by nature faith based and when not affiliated with formal religion are often wrongly disassociated with “faith”.

Humans seem to have an appetite for and an appreciation of a spiritual dimension.

- Life seems empty without it.
- Western civilization is shaped by it.
- Much of our culture takes it for granted.

16

The cut flower ethic of moral secularism.

embracing the flower's glory (beauty)

while denying its basis (root)



17

“Of all the world’s religions, including the three great monotheisms, only in Christianity did the idea develop that slavery was sinful and must be abolished. Although it has been fashionable to deny it, antislavery doctrines began to appear in Christian theology soon after the decline of Rome and were accompanied by the eventual disappearance of slavery in all but the fringes of Christian Europe.”

Rodney Stark
(Sociology of Religion at University of Washington) 18

“Jesus made clear that the Kingdom of God is organic and not organizational. It grows like a seed and it works like leaven: secretly, invisibly, surprisingly, and irresistibly.”

Os Guinness



“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think

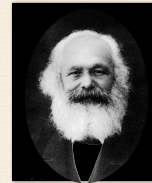


of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.”

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. (p. 134). 20

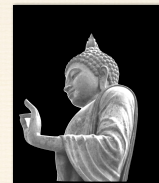
What are we to stand against in our spiritual warfare?

★ **The temptation to be one dimensional.**



Marx

(detachment from the spiritual world)



Buddha

(detachment from the material world)

“Christ calls us to be in but not of this world.”

Jn.17:15-19

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What are we to stand against in our spiritual warfare?

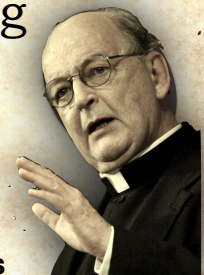
★ **The temptation to be one dimensional.**

- **Political power** will glorify God and bring in His kingdom.
- **Military strength** will give us security.
- **Christian laws** will reform humanity.
- **Material prosperity** will bring social peace and justice.
- **An educated world** will bring humanity to its senses.
- **An organized church** will unify the Body of Christ.

22

“The religious left wants the kingdom on earth without its king and before its time.”

Richard John Neuhaus

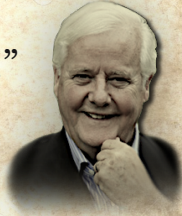


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“Conservative Christians have too often withdrawn from socio-political involvement.

When they do engage the culture, they often place too much hope in politics.”

Os Guinness

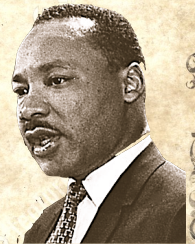


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“Morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless.”

But only superficially.

Martin Luther King Jr.



25

What are we to stand against in our spiritual warfare?

★ **The temptation to be one dimensional.**

“In the end, dear friend, it is always between us and God, not between us and them.”

Mother Teresa



26

“My life was changed when I heard that my 6 yr. old HIV patient had said, *“I knew that I was dying because the Dr. stopped coming into my room.”*”

Arthur Ammann M.D.
pediatric immunologist



27

The greater gift

“A monk in his travels once found a precious stone and kept it. One day he met a traveler, and when the monk opened his bag to share his provisions with him, the traveler saw the jewel and asked the monk to give it to him. The monk did so readily. The traveler departed overjoyed with the unexpected gift of the precious stone that was enough to give him wealth and security for the rest of his life. However, a few days later he came back in search of the monk, found him, gave him back the stone, and entreated him, ‘Now give me something much more precious than this stone, valuable as it is. Give me that which enabled you to give it to me.’”



Anthony De Mello
Indian Jesuit priest

28

Jesus did not tell the poor and weary to:

“Go to the bank, or the university, or the government, or the theater, or the doctor.”

Matthew 11:28

He said “Come unto me, all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.”

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