

Seven Unholy Spirits

Luke 11:24-26

Introduction:

- A. Two basic meanings of “spirit”.
 - 1. Spirit beings: Holy Spirit, unclean spirits, “our spirits”, etc.
 - 2. Attitudes, temperaments, dispositions: (Lk. 1:17; Gal. 6:1).
 - 3. Text using first meaning, we are using second in this lesson.
- B. Seven “unholy spirits” that often make havoc of congregations:

Discussion:

- I. The Unholy Spirit of *Indifference*. (Rev. 3:15-16).**
 - A. Little real interest in most of the church’s operation — spectator.
 - B. Just enough interest to maintain membership.
 - C. Excited only when indifference disturbed.
- II. The Unholy Spirit of *Disgruntlement* (Jude 16).**
 - A. Seldom about any one thing or legitimate.
 - B. Seldom consistent or rational. (cf. Matt. 11:16-19)
 - C. Likely most contagious and damaging of all spirits.
- III. The Unholy Spirit *Carnality*. (1 Cor. 3:1).**
 - A. Evidenced by “envy, strife, divisions”. (1 Cor. 3:3).
 - B. Evidenced by inordinate loyalty to men. (1 Cor. 3:4-7).
 - C. Evidenced by desire for “sensationalism” in worship and preaching.
 - 1. Thrill rather than teach.
 - 2. Excite rather than expound.
 - 3. “Electrify” rather than “edify”.
- IV. The Unholy Spirit of *Wordliness*. (1 Cor. 2:12)**
 - A. Blind conformity to world standards. (Rom. 12:1,2).
 - B. Emphasis on things of this world over world to come.
- V. The Unholy Spirit of *Liberalism*. (cf. Col. 3:17).**
 - A. Liberal view of the inspiration of the Scriptures.
 - B. Liberal view of the authority of the Scriptures.
 - C. Liberal view of the application of the Scriptures.
 - 1. Silence gives consent. (cf. Heb. 7)
 - 2. General guideliness, not to be explicitly followed.
 - 3. Allowed to make allowances (Wife’s pattern)
- VI. The Unholy Spirit of *Compromise*. (cf. Gal. 2:5).**
 - A. A spirit of fear (cf. 2 Tim. 1:17) rather than boldness.
 - B. Thrives on inordinate desire for peace and popularity. (cf. Jas. 3:17).
 - C. Considers almost all things negotiable -- because some things are.
- VII. The Unholy of Spirit *Diotrephes*. (3 John 9).**
 - A. Forbidden in elders. (1 Pet. 5:3) -- How much more in the rest of us?
 - B. Such a spirit is all too common among brethren.
 - 1. Especially brethren with strong personalities.
 - 2. Especially brethren who are powerful in secular affairs - used to giving orders.
 - 3. Especially brethren who are highly results oriented.
 - 4. Especially brethren who think highly of their judgment ability.

Conclusion:

- A. If we detect any of these spirits within ourselves - kill them.
- B. If we find them within congregation deal firmly with them when they are affecting the church.