

## **What Prevents Agreement with Others**

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: The Power of Agreement

**Text: Romans 16:17 (NKJV & NLT)**

Satan's strategy against humanity is classic warfare... **divide** and conquer. **Matthew 12:25**  
Satan employed this strategy from the very beginning with Adam and Eve. Their disobedience to God caused **separation** from God, their removal from the paradise of Eden and **disunity** between husband and wife. This disunity and broken relationship continue throughout the history of mankind. All of the wars, deaths, and heartaches flow from this evil plan.

### **James 4:1-3**

Agreement comes from **selflessness**. Disunity and disagreement come when we are focused on ourselves. **Philippians 2:4 (AMP)** The Power of Agreement releases the supernatural. Satan has released demonic forces that rage against unity in the body of Christ that Jesus died and gave His life for. **Ephesians 6:12** When it comes to hindrances to unity and agreement we are dealing with **spirits** that have been given an assignment to prevent the release of the supernatural.

#### ❖ **Cain** – the spirit of **jealousy**. **Genesis 4:3-11**

When we read through Scripture, we confront a number of evil spirits that come to **divide** and keep either person from experiencing all that God has for them. This spirit is a killer. Jealousy is a killer. It kills agreement in families and ruins them. It kills agreement in the family of God. It not only divides brothers and sisters, it hinders worship and prevents a **harvest** of souls.

Jealousy is angry when it does not give it's best to God and does not receive His approval. The spirit of Cain does not see obedience as an act of worship and relationship but as simply a duty that has little meaning. The spirit of Cain does the very least and expects the very most. **Genesis 4:6-7 (AMP)** This spirit blames others and hates others for their own disobedience and compromise and takes it out on others. They want what others have with God but are not willing to invest the time, obedience, or sacrifice.

#### ❖ **Ham** – The spirit of **dishonor**. **Genesis 9:20-25**

Ham was the second born of Noah. He uncovered his father's nakedness. This manifests itself today in those who betray confidential information about someone who trusts them. Those who expose do so not to correct or to challenge sin and dishonesty but to embarrass people at their most vulnerable. They uncover what should be covered and remain covered and let people know about it. This spirit is worse than gossip because it involves betrayal.

**Proverbs 16:28 (NKJV, AMP, NIV, NLT), Proverbs 11:13-14 (NKJV, AMP, NIV, NLT)**

This spirit works the strongest in families and in close friendships. We should always be our **safest** among family.

**Exodus 21:17, Leviticus 20:9, Proverbs 6:16-19, Proverbs 19:11, Matthew 15:4, Ephesians 6:1-3**

Ham could have covered his father and told no one what he saw. He didn't tell his brothers because he was unsure what to do and how to cover his father. He exposed his father to further humiliation.

This spirit works to tear down the sanctity and purity of family. The Bible commands us to hold our parents in high regard and to honor them. This spirit also works to dishonor the sanctity and purity of sexual relationships. Men are to honor the purity of women, and women are to honor the purity of men. All intimate interaction is to take place in a committed marriage relationship. To uncover the nakedness of anyone, in the Bible, primarily dealt with an impure sexual relationship. This does not imply that Ham did anything to his father. Today Satan is tearing down the very fabric of society because people are dishonoring one another to such an extent it has become normal. **Romans 1:24-27** People are becoming vulnerable in a place where they should be at their most protected.

❖ Esau – the spirit of bitterness and offense.

This is one of the most destructive when it comes to doing life together. **Hebrews 12:14-17** This is a spirit that causes someone to be thin skinned, it is a spirit of rejection. This person causes people to become angry and bitter about decisions that they have made in their own lives, and they are reaping the consequences from which there is no return. **Galatians 6:7-9** They have repented but there is no reversing what they have done. It often happens in people who have been hasty and taken advantage of in a moment of weakness and need. It can happen in people who have been deceived. Remember Jacob deceived Esau, but Esau willingly gave up his birthright.

Bitterness is evidence of an unforgiving spirit. The root of bitterness grows up into other areas of our life and grows into a tree of offense. This is used by the enemy to defile the lives of others. This makes relationships unclean.

❖ Saul – the spirit of paranoia. **1 Samuel 16:14 (NKJV & NLT)**

Saul at times suffered from deep, depressive mood swings, which made him mentally unstable and caused him to exhibit wild behavior of extreme wickedness throughout his rule. This behavior manifested itself in uncontrollable jealousy of David, compelling Saul to pursue him continually to injure or kill him. Given Saul's uncontrollable fits of anger, it seems demonic forces motivated him at times.

From the symptoms expressed in Scripture, many Bible scholars have theorized on the theological and psychological particulars pertaining to Saul's situation and the type of illnesses from which he might have suffered. Saul seemed to suffer from melancholia mania (extreme manic depression) and paroxysmal mania (violent emotional outbursts of rage), often described as paranoid schizophrenia.

Saul often experienced extreme depression. Saul went mad because the throne became more important than the call. David honored the anointing. Saul was intimidated by God's favor. **1 Samuel 10:21-24, 1 Samuel 24:4-20** Saul found his identity in what he did not in who he was. Instead of embracing David, who looked up to him, Saul felt threatened by David's call and accomplishments.

David looked at Saul as a mentor. Saul saw David as a threat. Can you imagine what would have happened if Saul embraced David and they worked together? We should celebrate the success of others. When we do, their success becomes shared success. It becomes about US instead of a competition. Saul's heaviness led to the destruction of his family. **Insecurity** leads to paranoia and paranoia leads to destruction.

❖ Rehoboam – the spirit of **pride**.

Rehoboam thought that he knew it all. He refused to honor, respect, or receive direction from his elders. Pride always brings **division**. **1 Kings 12:6-16** What we are seeing in our day is not a new thing, but it is happening at an increasingly alarming rate. Satan is dividing the **generations**. Different generations have always had different experiences. Different foods, music and education but we have always shared and cherished family. Now those differences are magnified much quicker with the growth of technology. With the breakdown of the family, our differences find no commonality and all generations dig in their heels in pride. Pride leads to two things: **bondage** and **broken** relationships. **Proverbs 16:5, Proverbs 16:18-20**

❖ Ahab and Jezebel – The spirit of **passivity** and the spirit of **control**.

I call the Ahab spirit the spirit of **wimp**.

Jezebel had the spirit of control. It is all about **manipulation**. Jezebel is a bully. Bullies count on the fact that most people are uncomfortable with confrontation and are counting on the fact that we will not stand up to them and that we will not have enough support from other people to make our stand worth the effort. They have no respect for what you have accomplished or who you represent. Elijah was powerfully used by God. This fact did not impress the bully. They are sent by Satan to undermine God's work and victories. The work of the bully is to neutralize our generations Elijah's.

The Jezebel spirit manipulates and destroys quality friendships because one person tries to control every decision the other person makes. Friendships and quality relationships are built on love, **loyalty**, understanding and acceptance. Control is based on one person's terms and not mutual **agreement**.

Ahab suffered from a **co-dependent** spirit. You cannot have a Jezebel without an Ahab. Ahab had the power and position to put Jezebel in place and keep her ambition and control in check but he neglected his **responsibility** to lead. He was lazy. Jezebel was ambitious, Ahab was not. Jezebel appealed to his ego and used **seduction**, flattery, cruelty and belittling to twist people to her wishes. When Jezebel can't control, she uses fear and intimidation.

A codependent spirit is a spirit where one person is constantly trying to please and make the relationship work so hard because they desire the other person's approval. Where Jezebel looks powerful, Ahab looks pathetic.

This is when God will raise up three things:

- 1) An Elijah or the prophetic to counter the pathetic. Someone who will speak up and declare God's word.
- 2) A Jehu or a warrior to deal with the evil spirit. Thank God for warriors who are willing to confront.
- 3) A Eunuch or someone willingly committed to purity, who could not be seduced or manipulated. Notice these Eunuchs were more of a man than Ahab, physically chaste but not spiritually neutered. The reason that the spirit of Jezebel is so effective is because many people have more in common with a crust of bread than a prophet of God.

**Proverbs 6:26-28**

We all have that one friend where the relationship is one sided. They expect us to be there for them but when we need them, they are not there for us or where we need them to be. It is important to realize it is good to go where you are celebrated not where you are tolerated, manipulated or an afterthought.

- ❖ Gomer – the spirit of seduction, harlotry and lust.

Gomer left her husband the prophet Hosea. She committed adultery, became a temple prostitute and finally a slave. Eventually she was restored to her marriage but not until after causing much heartache.

This is a spirit of spiritual and relational unfaithfulness. It is about fidelity, loyalty, and singularity. This spirit is about breaking apart the sacredness of exclusivity; marriage, family and friendships. At the heart of this is the sin of lust or the craving for more. It is wanting what is someone else's. It is about enough never being enough. Many call this 'greener grass' syndrome. It is always looking for the thrill, the next big thing. This shatters marriages, business relationships and ministries.

People, churches and friendships are not steppingstones, they are precious. They are not a step in the journey they are what the journey is about. We are a part of one another's story.

- ❖ Job's friends – this is a religious spirit.

Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar allow us to see a religious and legalistic spirit at work. They are deceptive and destructive. Job's friends were great for awhile but eventually they began to judge him and acted religious and critiquing his words in his pain instead of showing him compassion and comforting him. They basically told Job that his trials, losses and pain were his fault. This is so harmful. At the moment people need to be built up we wind up tearing them down. Many times, we miss opportunities to minister because we are trying to give answers to people that have no basis in spiritual reality.

❖ Judas Iscariot and Demas – the spirit of betrayal.

There is nothing more destructive than betrayal. Judas betrayed Jesus because he was evil and not a true friend. Even his kiss had an ulterior motive. Judas was loyal to the one with the money and where he thought the popularity was. He was not impressed with friendship or the supernatural. None of it mattered to him.

Demas left Paul when he needed him the most. He was with Paul through a great deal. Paul's imprisonment, beating and even left for dead. But he was pulled away because he still loved the world. **2 Timothy 4:10 (NLT)**

There are four types of friendships:

- Friends for a reason.
- Friends for a season.
- Friends for a lifetime.
- A friend who sticks closer than a brother. **Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV, NIV, AMP)**

We also need to know the difference (to discern) between a Peter and a Judas. Peter had a bad day; Judas had a bad heart. Peter, you restore, Judas, you release.

Even good friends will occasionally let you down. Peter was not just sorry for his betrayal, he was repentant. He did a complete turnaround. So much so that Jesus was able to trust him with those he truly cared for. **John 21:15-19** Jesus understood the Power of Agreement. He refused to stay disagreeable with someone who was truly repentant and had a change of heart. You can restore trust when it has been broken. (Those who are 10 X understand how important this is.)

❖ Simon & Elymas, – a spirit of manipulation and self-promotion. **Acts 8:9-24, Acts 13:6-12**

Witchcraft and sorcery are all about control and power. It is about gaining people's loyalty and trust all for self-gain, recognition or for money. These people see others as tools, as a means to an end. People are not tools to be used and manipulated but people who are to be invested in and filled with the Spirit of God. The power of God is given to help people receive what God has for them. Sorcery uses people to get what you want. This is spiritual manipulation and it violates people at a deep level. It makes them feel dirty, unwanted, unloved and unworthy.

These are spirits or demons that hinder agreement in relationships. Unity in relationships is a key that unlocks many of the blessings of heaven.

- We combat pride with humility **Psalm 149:4**
- We combat bitterness with love **Matthew 5:44**
- We combat paranoia with a renewed mind **Romans 12:1-2**
- We combat control with faith in God **Romans 5:1-5**
- We combat lust with righteousness **Matthew 6:33**
- We combat a religious spirit with grace **Colossians 4:5-6**