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The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Chapter 14 - Casting Down the Accuser of the Brethren (Part 1)

Jesus calls us beyond the standards of “church as usual”; He calls us to reveal the life and power of the kingdom of God. What is the difference between the church and God’s kingdom? Those who seek first for God’s kingdom are love-motivated people who are given to prayer. When they see a need, instead of judging, they intercede.

How the Kingdom Comes

Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. Revelation 12:10

There will be an actual point in time when the “salvation,” “power” and “kingdom of God,” as well as the “authority of Christ,” are manifested in the earth. While we wait patiently for the fulfillment of that glorious event, the spirit of this eternal reality can be possessed any time a people determine to walk free of criticism and faultfinding, and turn their sights toward purity, love and prayer for each other.

There are God-ordained procedures to initiate correction within a church. These corrections should be done by “you who are spiritual... in a spirit of gentleness;... looking for yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.” Your motive should be to “restore such a one” (Galatians 6:1). Accusations against an elder, though, should not even be received “except on the basis of two or three witnesses” (1 Timothy 5:19). The “witness” spoken of here are actual eye-witnesses, not merely “intuitive” witnesses people might have apart from hard and visible facts. All too often, these alleged “witnesses” are critical people manipulated by hell to destroy the harmony of a church with rumors and gossip.

Certainly, correction is necessary in the church. Yet, to be truly anointed to bring Christ’s corrections to a church, one must be anointed with Christ’s redemptive motives. The Scriptures are plain, Jesus “always lives to make intercession for [the saints]” (Hebrews 7:25; see also Romans 8:34). The Son of God “did not come to judge the world, but to save the world” (John 12:47). Likewise, God does not call us to judge one another, but to pray for one another. If we see a need in the body of Christ, our first reaction should be to intercede and not simply

criticize. Our pattern must be to follow Christ in building and restoring, not to echo the accuser of the brethren in merely finding fault.

You see, we will always be serving in churches where things are wrong. Our response to what we see defines how Christlike we are actually becoming. If we see weakness in the body of Christ, our call is to supply strength. If we see sin, our response is to be an example of virtue. When we discover fear, we must impart courage, and where there is worldiness, we must display holiness. Our call is to enter the place of intercession and stand there until the body of Christ is built up in that area.

To be continued...