

Living Epistles Ministries

LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS

Sheila R Vitale, Pastor, Teacher & Founder

LIVING EPISTLES MINISTRIES

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LIVING EPISTLES MINISTRIES
~ Christian Spiritual Philosophy ~

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John 7:17-18

17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. (KJV)

Love Covers A Multitude Of Sins

I.

THE LOVE OF GOD

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: **for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.** (1 Peter 4:8)

Let him know, that **he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way** shall save a soul from death, and **shall hide a multitude of sins.** (James 5:20)

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but **love covereth all sins.** (Proverbs 10:12)

Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast **in love** to my soul [delivered it] from the pit of corruption: for **thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.** (Isaiah 38:17)

I believe that, in most instances, the nature that we show every day to people, is a nature that has been socialized. We've been taught that this behavior is not acceptable: If you do it, you're going to be thrown out of your house or lose your job. We're taught from experience, if not from our parents, that this behavior is not socially acceptable, so we restrain ourselves, but when you drink all the restraints come off and on some level in the back of your brain you say, well I had an excuse, I was just drinking. It's an excuse to do what you really have wanted to do for weeks or months: to tell that person off, say that thing, tell them that you know that secret about them, whatever, and you just didn't have the guts to tell them. So it's just under a smokescreen. "Oh, did I do that? Well, I was just joking." No, that's what you wanted to do! You've been lusting to do it for weeks and you didn't have the guts.

COMMENT: I disagree. Some alcoholics have the same

personality as when they're drunk. I carry a bad attitude and it doesn't get any worse when I'm drinking. I'm worse when I'm not drinking. I can't speak for other alcoholics, but I don't have to be drunk to let people know how I feel. Alcohol just helps to let it out a little easier because you just don't care. It gives you that courage.

PASTOR VITALE: Well, everybody is not the same. You may tell people off when you're sober, but not everybody does. My opinion is that you go a little further when you drink. You do have a big mouth, I agree, when you're sober, but you go further when you drink. That's my opinion.

COMMENT: The Bible says that wine is a mocker but strong drink is raging.

PASTOR VITALE: Then, on the other hand, there's such a thing as a dry drunk. Some people manifest all the manifestations of someone who is drunk without having any liquor in them. So, someone for whom there's virtually no change from when they're sober to when they're drinking, may continuously be on a dry drunk. It's true, there's an alcoholic personality. I've seen it. I know people who have experienced it. They get high and they have the high, and they do everything that they do when they're drinking. Some people are just on a continuous dry drunk -- wet drunk, it makes no difference.

COMMENT: Is that the equivalent of a person having a split personality and going into the other personality because you have the same feelings of not caring and just bluntly saying what you feel? You just do things that you would not naturally do under a normal circumstance?

PASTOR VITALE: Well, I don't know. You would have to take each case by itself. But, to me, someone like that is continuously manifesting. Some people just continue to manifest.

COMMENT: Would an abusive personality go under the category of a dry drunk? Someone who is always angry, not knowing why they're angry, and always stirred up?

PASTOR VITALE: Well, it's a possibility. That's part of the alcoholic personality -- continuous anger.

COMMENT: Could that personality just be there rather than circumstances causing anything to happen?

PASTOR VITALE: Circumstances don't make us abusive. What's in our heart makes us abusive. Jesus clearly said that nothing that goes into your mouth can defile you, but what's in your heart defiles you. External circumstances don't make us behave badly. We behave badly because sin in our heart rises up and, sometimes, overtakes us because we're all fallen. What makes us behave badly is sin in our heart. You can never blame it on another human being such as, "sister so-and-so provoked me." While it may be true, we're still responsible for our behavior -- for our words and for our thoughts.

As far as the Lord is concerned, He's not interested in what provokes us. This is the whole principle of the tribulation: As you overcome your weaknesses and more and more of Christ begins to appear in you, the trials get hotter as God sends more demonized people against you. He'll send two and three demonized people against you at once. Why? Because He's testing the Christ in you. And each time you manifest back, it's established, once again, that you're not in full stature.

Today I was severely tried, and I didn't manifest Christ. Now there's no condemnation in this. It's just a reminder to me that I have to continue to pray and ask God to increase Christ in me and to increase my ability to overcome the sin in other people's minds. When carnally-minded people come at you and attack you with their minds, they attack you with anger. It's an attack against you. It's a spiritual attack. Someone rages against you, someone accuses you or, if someone hates you, it comes at you as a spiritual missile attacking your heart. The result of that attack is to stimulate your carnal mind (your carnal heart) to respond in the same manner. That's what the attack does.

When you get shot with a bullet it wounds your body. When you get shot with a spiritual missile, if it can, it seduces your own fallen heart to retaliate, and retaliation is sin. We're continuously under a seduction to sin, either from our own mind or from someone else's mind.

The whole challenge of Christ, the whole purpose of God giving His Christ to us and putting His Christ inside our heart permanently, is that when that missile comes at us, that

Christ should cover our sins. Did you hear that scripture, that love covers a multitude of sins? There are a bunch of religious people running around the Church saying, "don't expose anyone's sin, just cover it with love." Brethren, that's not what that Scripture means.

JESUS EXPOSES SIN. Why? BECAUSE HE WANTS IT DESTROYED! JESUS DOESN'T HIDE OTHER PEOPLE'S SINS! DON'T YOU BELIEVE THAT LIE! When you have Christ growing in you, and a missile comes at you and tries to stimulate your fallen heart to respond with an ungodly response, which is sin, Christ lays over your fallen heart and stops it from sinning.

Love, the love of God, covers the multitude of sins which are in your fallen heart, and the faithfulness of Jesus Christ purifies us. What's the exact scripture? The faithfulness of Jesus Christ, or the blood of Jesus, continuously purifies us. There's a scripture like that.

How do you think it happens? Is the blood flowing through your veins? Brethren, I've been telling you, and I keep telling you, that these scriptures have to become real to you. Don't quote me quotes from the Bible, but tell me what it means to you personally. Tell me what it means to your mind, tell me what it means to your emotions, tell me what it means to your life. Don't quote me Scriptures if you don't know what they mean.

If the blood of Jesus continuously cleanses us from sin, what does it mean? Are you continuously getting a blood transfusion? No. It means that when you're tempted to sin, He flops on your carnal mind.

The stronger and the more mature Christ is in you, the more strength He has to put that sin down. We were having a laugh earlier about a deliverance that happened here, and me having my shoulders pressed to the ground. Well, that's what Christ does to sin in you. He covers your carnal mind (fallen heart) and says, "you're not going to respond like that." That's how He cleanses us from sin.

But when Christ is young in you, He may not have much strength. He may just be a shoot while you may have a tree of sin in you that's a big strong tree. Especially if you have family line curses, well everybody does, but in some

people's lives these family line curses are stronger than in others.

You may have one big tree of the knowledge of good and evil in you when Christ comes in. And how does He initially come into your heart? As a seed. He comes in as a seed. He can be inside of you for a season before He sprouts, and then find Himself faced with this giant Goliath.

So don't be discouraged and don't think that God isn't with you because He doesn't give you an immediate victory. Brethren, the truth will set you free. You've got to know how God works. He's not changing His plan because you don't understand how He works. Right? So you can wait in some measure of peace until the seed of His life sprouts and comes to an age where He has military strength.

Let me say it again. You can ask God to help you abide in some peace until the seed of Christ that has been imparted to you matures to the point that it has some military strength -- to do what? To knock that carnal mind down to the ground with a shoulder press.

Or you can just rage, be in torment, and not listen to this kind of teaching or this kind of counsel, and say "God has abandoned me," "God isn't with me," "God isn't going to do it," "God hates me," "God doesn't love me," "He didn't pick me" -- however it's going to manifest in your mind. You can yield to that, or you can hear teaching like this, hold on to the horns of the altar, bite the bullet and wait until that deliverance comes, because deliverance will surely come. Submit yourself to God, resist the devil and deliverance must come. As the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, it must come.

So I encourage you not to blaspheme against God because He's not doing it your way, or because He's not doing it fast enough for you, or because your carnal mind can't see it. How about listening to something that a spiritual elder has said to you, taking it on faith and running with the ball.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

II.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

[The Vision]: We're handed a wooden rod with a blue crown around the top of it and a blue bow on top of the crown. There's writing on the rod which I read carefully. This part of the vision has been erased from my memory, but I know we'll never be free until this happens -- but that which is supposed to be happening has been erased, so no one seems to know what it means.

[Comment]: I'd like to suggest to you that this rod typifies the judgment of the saints. It's called the "White Throne Judgement." The wooden rod with the blue crown around the top of it had a blue bow on top of the crown.

Wood typifies man and a crown is what Jesus promises us when we overcome. Christ is correcting the Church with a human rod of correction. **THIS IS THE WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT OF THE SAINTS: CHRIST MANIFESTING JUDGMENT THROUGH MEN WHO ARE EXPRESSING HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.** The crown is ready to be given to us when **OUR** judgment is completed. The crown is Christ, and the blue bow is the Spirit of the Father which abides in His Christ.

What I'm trying to suggest to you tonight is that this judgment of the saints is a big secret. It's being preached in very very very few places. Now, why would it be erased from our memory? Perhaps God is only giving this revelation to the people who He's calling to the Judgment Seat of Christ at this hour. Now why would He do that? Because it's not pleasant. It's very unpleasant. Now if you

know that this correction is coming and it's unpleasant, perhaps God isn't telling you until it's your time. Why should you worry about it? Because there are some people who would worry about it. And I believe that this revelation, this mystery of the judgment of the saints, is just that: It's a mystery and it's revealed to you only before you enter into the White Throne Judgment.

So what is this judgment? It's a correction of the way we think: Of our attitudes and our emotions. We've found Scriptures in several chapters of the Book of Daniel, indicating that God perceives that the saints are filled with witchcraft power. This is spoken about in the Book of Daniel and in the Book of the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed in you, the witchcraft power that you were born with must be broken! The witchcraft power by which you're living your life, the witchcraft power by which you've obtained all of your needs up until now, must be broken! Why? So that Christ can begin to meet all of your needs, so that Christ can think for you, so that Christ can hear for you, so that Christ can reason for you, so that Christ can speak for you, **SO THAT YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF SINLESS!**

Unless and until this happens to you -- until what happens to you? -- until the Christ in you chastens your carnal mind and everything that proceeds forth out of your carnal mind -- you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. This junk isn't going into the Kingdom, brethren, because when your mind is carnal, which means your mind is filled with sin, you can't enter into the Kingdom.

So there's a correction that must come. The Bible calls it the "White Throne Judgment." These hidden thoughts of your heart must be corrected because, even though you think they're just carnal, the Lord calls them "sin." But before this correction can take place, **THESE HIDDEN THOUGHTS OF YOUR HEART MUST BE EXPOSED** because, no matter how harmless they appear to be, they're sin.

The way God seems to be bringing forth this correction, as strange as it may sound to a lot of the saints, is to put you in a close relationship **WITH SOMEBODY WHO HAS**

ALREADY RECEIVED A LOT OF CORRECTION. The Scriptures say that if you can perceive your own sins you won't have to be judged by someone else. It's rare for me to be judged by someone else because God has given me the grace to recognize my sins when He shows them to me. The Lord has given me the ability to recognize His correction when He's saying it – no matter who He's saying it through - - and submit to that correction. But the average person can't see his own sins.

So one of the things we do in this ministry is to point out sin that the average person doesn't know is a sin. I'll come to you and tell you that I know you didn't mean it, that I know you didn't realize it, but what you said, or that attitude that you said it in, was a sin manifesting in your heart. If I don't point this sin out to you so that you can honestly ask God to witness the truth of it to you, it may never be rooted out of you; and if it doesn't come out of you, you won't enter into the Kingdom.

This correction is painful, but it's unto your ultimate deliverance. It's a correction of the way that you think. It's a correction of your attitudes and emotions. It's a revelation of sin in the way that you think, in the way that you behave and in the things you say, that you never knew were sin. God is showing it to you because He loves you enough to show it to you. Your part is to put any corrective thing that I (or anybody else) say to you before the Lord.

I listen for the word of the Lord in everybody's mouth. I was corrected by a total stranger once, while standing on a line to get on a plane. This woman turned around and said something to me. I didn't say anything back to her, but walked away and said, "wow, wasn't that a nerve?" I was a preacher at that time, but she had heard me saying something that she thought was wrong. "Wasn't that a nerve to interfere," I thought. Then I said, "I'd better not take any chances" and asked the Lord, "could that possibly have been you speaking to me through that stranger in the airport?" And He said "Yes."

Now I want to tell you, my pride was up, but I took the correction. I repented and I took the correction. God has enabled me to hear Him that subtly. Most people can't hear

him that subtly, so someone in authority has to show them their sins.

I know people who have sat in Church and heard about sin for years without it ever registering in their mind that a particular situation, which the Lord calls "sin," could be operating **IN THEM**. They can't see it, so we're here to point out the operation of sin in the mind, behavior and communication of God's people. **THIS IS THE LORD'S WAY OF CLEANING THEM UP SO THAT THEY CAN ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM.**

It's hard having your sins pointed out. No one in their right mind would want it. So to submit to this correction, you need a revelation of the mystery of what the end of the correction is.

Now I don't know about you, but I've always known that, especially Italian families, chasten their children with a wooden spoon. That's the rod that they use, a wooden spoon. Now, the rod of the Lord's correction is the faithful believers **WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN UNDER THE CORRECTION OF HIS ROD FOR A SEASON.**

The problem with most believers, though, is that they think "the judgment" is for the disobedient heathen. But brethren, we're all disobedient. This is a mystery: Everybody is disobedient! I don't care how good you look, you're probably just a Pharisee. I want to tell you, this idea of the judgment is the hardest on the Pharisees. I'm telling you the truth.

They grew up in the Church and they've never done anything wrong in their life. Forget it, they do everything right. They're all concerned with their behavior. They don't curse, they don't smoke, they don't cheat on their wives. They do everything right **ON THE SURFACE.**

But Jesus said, your heart is filled with what? Dead men's bones. So all of you Pharisees out there, you have my deepest compassion and mercy. How hard it is for you to realize that you're a sinner – as filthy as everybody else, and when you get mad because God has shown favor to the prostitute and the drug addict, I've got a flash for you -- **THAT ANGER AND INDIGNATION IS SIN IN YOUR MIND.**

It's hard for those Pharisees. I feel sorry for them. I'm

telling you, I feel sorry for them. Now everybody knows about we sinners, right? Those of us who used to curse out our parents, fall down drunk in the street, curse, smoke and do all that kind of stuff, we know we're sinners. Right? Well, it's true, isn't it? Boy, those Pharisees are the worst. They'll kill you, man. They'll nail you to the wall. Save me from the Pharisees, Lord. What did I ever do to deserve them. Give me a prostitute any day. Those Pharisees are the worst. They make me nervous, man. They make me nervous. They think they've arrived.

Now I hope no one misunderstood me. I bless the Pharisees. All that I'm saying is that there's a piece missing from the jigsaw puzzle, of their understanding of the mysteries. A lot of them are sold out to God. Many of them have the message of the Kingdom, but don't seem to understand that **EVERYONE**, the sinner on the street as well as the sinner in church, needs to go through this correction.

Everyone has had their trials, tribulations and hard times but, brethren, hard times only **PREPARE** you for the correction. Hard times are not "the correction." Hard times break your human power. Hard times crush you and prepare you for when God comes to you, or when He sends a servant to you, to say "hey, that's sin in your heart. Can you ask God to help you confess it so that you can get past it?" They're so crushed and broken by the time that happens, that they say "amen."

SO HARD TIMES ARE NOT "THE JUDGMENT." "THE JUDGMENT" IS THE EXPOSURE OF SIN IN THE WAY YOU THINK AND OF WHAT COMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. That's "the judgment." So when the correction comes, what are you going to do? Are you going to rise up in pride and say "who does she think that she is, or he is, or who does that donkey (or whoever God's speaking through) think it is? Or are you going to pray about it? You don't have to believe it, but if you can't pray about it, if you can't say, "Lord, is that true?" something is wrong. If you can't say, "Father, if it's true that this sin is in me, even though I didn't mean it, I wasn't aware of it, it wasn't conscious, but if that's really sin in me, I want to know it, and I want it out -- if

you can't honestly say that, you're in trouble, **AND YOUR TROUBLE IS CALLED "PRIDE."**

I told you what happened to me at the airport. I have another testimony you may have heard. I was in the bagel store when I used to work in Manhattan. It was Saturday morning. I was having a bagel and a woman who traveled on the commuter bus with me was there. She was an utterly reprobate woman. I don't think she was even in her right mind. Everyone on the bus knew she was strange.

She sat down next to me so I thought I had ministry for her. She talked to me for about half an hour about this elderly aunt that was living with her and how her husband wasn't treating the woman right because he didn't understand the problems of the elderly. After half an hour she left and I asked the Lord, "what was that all about?" The Lord said, "you needed to hear that because your parents are getting very elderly, you're having those same problems, and you're handling them wrong.

I'm telling you, this woman wasn't right in her mind, but God brought counsel to me in an area that she seemed to know what she was talking about. Now, brethren, we've got to be able to hear this. If you can't hear this, then God will send someone like me to you. You've got to hear it. If you were raised in a particular way, if you're thinking wrong, if you're handling problems wrong because that's the way you were raised, well, there's no condemnation in it, but you've got to hear the right way. **YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR THE RIGHT WAY AND YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE CHANGES!**

You've got to make the changes, or what? Am I going to whiplash you? No, but you may not enter into the Kingdom, because judgment is the way the mind of Christ overshadows your carnal mind. A thought at a time, an idea at a time. Glory to God!

For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same [is] a perfect man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body. (James 3:2)

And the tongue [is] a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. (James 3:6)

BUT THE TONGUE CAN NO MAN TAME; [it is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (James 3:8)

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