

**Pastor Mark Mikels - February  
16, 2020**

**"TWENTY-TWENTY VISION"**

**- The Spirit of 'Righteous' Indignation -**

(Romans 3:23; 7:18; 3:10; James 1:20; Acts 7:51; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19)

**Intro ...** "Testing the Spirits of the Age" ... that's we are doing as we make our way through the second month of this new year.

That's what the Apostle John instructed the people of the First Century to do and that's still our task in the Twenty-First.

The '*Spirits of the Age*' are those ideas and operating philosophies that unsaved people adopt to replace the leading and guiding of the '*Spirit of God*.'

The Apostle John pointed out that all of them are manifestations of what he called: '*The Spirit of the Anti-Christ*' that is itself an expression of Satan Himself.

These '**Spirits**' directly challenge and (if embraced) undermine the Christian Faith. They greatly weaken the Church of Jesus Christ whenever believers '*breathe them in*.'

So, our task is no small one and the stakes are high.

So far, we have recognized and tested and sought to confront: The "*Spirit of the Anti-Christ*" and the divisive/destructive "*Spirit of Partisanship*" and the ugly "*Spirit of Malicious Accusation*."

The past two weeks we have recognized the danger presented by the "*Spirit of Isolationism*" - the very '*Spirit*' that we are confronting as we identify ourselves as members of this flesh and blood local Body of Believers called: "*Sonlife Community Church*."

There are a number of '*Spirits*' still to be identified and tested and rejected ... '*Spirits*' that many in our country have whole-heartedly adopted ... Some of them are most troubling. All of them are unbiblical and contrary to the teachings of God's Word and thus challenge God's Authority and Wisdom.

All of them present threats to us as believers;

many of them can stir strong feelings within us.

And for that very reason I would have us consider the '*Spirit*' before us today before we consider any of the rest.

The '*Spirit of the Age*' that we have before us today can do great harm to the Church of Jesus Christ and to our Witness for Christ in the world.

We must face it honestly and squarely before we face any of the other "*Spirits*" yet to come.

So here it is ...

**TODAY'S '*SPIRIT OF THE AGE*' FOCUS:**  
**"*THE SPIRIT OF 'RIGHTEOUS' INDIGNATION*"**

Here's one way that it can be defined:

*"The hot surge of **MORAL** Superiority that **ARISES** when confronted with outrageous unbiblical **BEHAVIOR**."*

This is uniquely a '*Spirit of the Age*' that tempts us believers for it's a Spirit that actually whispers in our ear that we are '*Being Godly*' when we '*breathe it in*' and '*live it out*.'

The '*Spirit of Righteous Indignation*' ...

It's characterized and thus can be recognized by these ...

**Key Phrases:**

*"How **DARE** you" - "How **DARE** they"*

*"They **DISGUST** me"*

*"I would **NEVER** do such a thing."*

There's passion/heat behind those phrases; there's a sense of '*moral superiority*' behind them as well - Sounds a bit like the '*Pharisee*' that Jesus described who proudly prayed:

*"God, I thank you that I am not like other men."*

The problem with that '*Religiously Indignant Pharisee*' was that he was much more '*like other men*' than he thought.

He was not as '*righteous*' as he thought.

To keep us from making the Pharisee's mistake and breathing in and living out this '*Spirit of Righteous Indignation*' I present:

## **TODAY'S KEY BIBLICAL CONFESSION ...**

All Human Beings are **FLAWED**.

I am **FLAWED**.

**SIN** has **FLAWED** us all.

"All have sinned and fall **SHORT** of the Glory of God" - Romans 3:23

"... Nothing **GOOD** lives in ... my **SINFUL** nature." - Romans 7:18

"There is none **RIGHTEOUS** - no, not one." - Romans 3:10

Now the fact that we are flawed and the corresponding fact that none of us likes to admit that we are flawed give opportunity for this '*Spirit of Righteous Indignation*' to arise.

Consider with me this morning these *three relevant realities*. See if they '*strike a chord*' with you ... I know they do with me.

## **THREE RELEVANT REALITIES ...**

### **RELEVANT REALITY ONE: ALL HUMAN BEINGS TEND TO REJOICE WHEN THEY FIND SOMEONE MORE FLAWED THAN THEY ARE.**

- We feel '*less flawed*' compared to them -

That's what Jesus said the '**Pharisee**' was doing in the temple that day ...  
He was comparing himself to the '*publican/tax collector*'  
who was also in the temple.

The Pharisee was rejoicing before the Lord that he was '*so much better*' -  
that he was (to use our term of the day) '*morally superior*' to this unjust,  
tax collector who regularly '*extorted*' people out of their money.

Indeed, we human beings tend to rejoice when we find someone  
more flawed than we are ourselves.

And so, life can become an endless search for those worse than us whose  
bad behavior makes us look good by comparison **because** as a result,  
we can actually feel wonderfully '*righteous*.'

### **RELEVANT REALITY TWO: ALL HUMAN BEINGS HAVE THE CAPACITY AND TENDENCY FOR 'RIGHTEOUS' INDIGNATION**

- Feelings of '*moral superiority*' can easily arise -

That '*hot surge*' of disgust at such disgusting behavior rises up and the person so affected can be found '*leading the charge*' toward public condemnation and humiliation.

Is it not true, (and amazing) that the most sinful of human beings can find someone who is '*disgusting*' to them - someone who (in their eyes) is more depraved and worthy of judgment than they are?

**RELEVANT REALITY THREE:  
BORN-AGAIN HUMAN BEINGS MUST RESIST THAT TENDENCY**

One single key verse provides all the reason we need:

"Man's **ANGER** does not bring about the **RIGHTEOUS** life that God **DESIRES**." - James 1:20

The '*Hot Surge*' that arises within us so naturally does not serve the purposes of God ... either in us or in our fellowship.

It must be recognized for what it is  
(A dangerous Spirit of the Age) and resisted.

So, without a doubt, we, who at times can feel that '**Hot Surge**' arise within us, need the answer to ...

**TODAY'S KEY QUESTION ...**

**HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND WHEN CONFRONTED WITH OUTRAGEOUS UNBIBLICAL BEHAVIOR?**

**ANSWER: FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT'S EXAMPLE:**

Let's first review the facts as presented in the Scripture and then see the Spirit's response to those facts ... Then read these statements as part of one continuous thought ...

\* Though He can be **RESISTED** - His counsel **IGNORED** ...

And it's true ... God's Holy Spirit can and has been resisted and His Counsel ignored ... Stephen, whom the Jewish leaders stoned to death, declared ...

"You always resist the Holy Spirit" - Acts 7:51

**(And)** \* Though He can be **GRIEVED** - His heart **WOUNDED ...**

And that is also true ... our sinful behavior and sinful attitudes can indeed grieve and thus wound Him deeply for we are the very ones who have been entrusted to Him ... the ones He loves deeply. So, the Apostle Paul counsels:  
*"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit ..."* - Ephesians 4:30

**(And)** \* Though He can be **QUENCHED** - His influence **SQUELCHED**  
This, of course, is the ultimate insult to the Holy Spirit - He is made ineffective in our lives ... We become so fixated on the ungodly that we have no place for the Godly ... *"Do not quench the Holy Spirit"* - 1 Thess. 5:19

\* He does not become **INFURIATED** with us - Nothing we do can cause Him to become **INDIGNANT ...** He remains our **COMPANION** and **GUIDE** and **AWAITS** our renewed **RESPONSE** to His **MINISTRY**

***Now read the 'Example' straight through ...***

*"Though he can be resisted - His counsel ignored and though He can be grieved - His heart wounded and through He can be quenched - His influence squelched, He does not become infuriated with us. Nothing we do can cause Him to become indignant. He remains our companion and guide and awaits our renewed response to His Ministry.*

***IN SHORT, OUR TASK IS:*** Recognize **SIN** ... Resist **ANGER** ... Counsel the **SINNER** and Hope for a good **RESPONSE**

Indeed, '*Pneuma*' provides for us an excellent example of how we should respond to all the outrageous unbiblical behaviors we encounter in our world for as our ***Final Thot*** says ...

***Final Thot ...***

The '*Spirit of the Age*' called '*Righteous Indignation*' is not **RIGHTEOUS** at all! It always **HARMS** the **CAUSE** of **CHRIST**.