

19 February 1993, Morning Sacrifice Londrina, Brazil

A Satanic Principle

Matthew 12:30 — "He who is not for me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters." So let it be very clear: either you are one or you are the other. If there is something in us that is not for Him, then in that aspect of our lives, we are against Him. If in some way we are not gathering with Him, in that way we are scattering. There is no middle ground. Therefore, if we are on Messiah's side, we will build up and not tear down.

The one who scatters is the one who causes disorder in the Body, for instead of helping in the work, he slows it down. He does this by resisting authority. He resists, reasons, and finds ways not to do what he is told. He always offers good ideas as to what he should do before anyone tells him what to do. He is a destroyer and a scatterer, because he does not build up.

There are two types of scatterers: the obvious type and the hidden type. The obvious ones are those who are openly rebellious and do whatever they want to do. These are easier to deal with; they must leave the community. Rebellious people cannot live in the community because they will cause utter havoc and chaos. They are totally against God. They are utterly worthless and undesirable unless they repent. The other type of scatterer, the hidden one, is sometimes hard to detect. Their rebellion often masquerades as something else, such as weakness,. We bear with people with a weakness -- weakness of mind, weakness of character, weakness of emotional makeup, and so on -- so we have borne with weakness, at least until it reveals itself to be rebellion.

Our Master was given all authority in heaven and on earth (Mt 28:18-20). The command given to the apostles was an order to make disciples of all peoples. Whoever works against the work of the apostles works directly against YAHSHUA, for it was He who gave the order. Whoever, then, works against YAHSHUA, works against His authority, which was bestowed upon Him by the Father, God Himself. Whoever works against the Father makes himself brother to Satan, the rebel prince of this world system. Let it be clear: whoever is not on YAHSHUA's side, works on the side of the Evil One. He is the Destroyer, master of disorder.

Unity is unity. We are one because we love our Master YAHSHUA and we live in His order (1 Cor 11:1-3). Everything that is outside of that order is outside of salvation and outside of that unity. Everything that is in order is maintained that way by the authority of YAHSHUA, for that is why there is authority, that there might exist order. If there were no authority, there would be no order at all. So, if a person has a problem with authority, he has a problem with God, who is The Authority from eternity to eternity. If he fights authority, he fights God, and to fight against God is a serious thing. This is the Satanic principle: to want to exalt yourself above God. Anything that lifts itself up against authority fits into that principle.

1 John 5:19 — "We know that we are from God and that the whole world lies in the power of the Evil One." As we can see, the nations of the world are under the power of the Evil One, but YAHSHUA came to undo and destroy the works of the Evil One (1 Jn 3:8). Whoever works on His side, works with Him in destroying the works of the Evil One (1 Jn 2:13). But he who does not work on His side, even though he maintains himself passive, shows himself to be against Messiah. There is no middle ground. If you are not actively working for Him, already you are against Him. You are working for the Enemy. He who does not help, hinders.

Hebrews 13:17 — "Obey your leaders, and be easily managed, for they watch over your souls as those who will give an account." When our Master authorized the apostles to make disciples and teach them to observe all the things that He had taught them, He established leaders in our midst. He delegated His authority to those He could trust it to. Therefore, YAHSHUA's authority is in our midst in the brothers who lead us. But we don't stop there; we don't just submit to our leaders and no one else. Eph 5:21 tells us to be submissive to all of our brothers. To the degree that we fear and respect Messiah in our brothers, we will submit to them. If we do not submit to our brothers it is because we do not fear and respect our Master, and most probably, we do not know Him. If we respect our brothers, we show that we respect Messiah. We owe this submission to all, but especially to those who are in authority. In this way, all our brothers have a say-so in our lives; they can correct us, if need be. But there are those who have more authority in our lives than others. These are leaders.

They are the ones who are ahead of us. They've walked this path just a little more than we have and they have been given the gift to bring order to things in the community. We should not be proud and despise them, thinking we know more than they do. To the contrary, we should make their work easier, since they were established by God Himself. To cause them hardship would mean causing God a hardship, because their authority comes from Him. Who would want to give God a hard time?

These leaders are not perfect, so there will be times they will not treat the people they lead just right. There will always be problems. The defects of those who are in authority always test with the fire those who follow. These are very difficult tests, yet we are to overcome as we do any other test. The more difficult the test, the more we are purified and made ready to rule with our Messiah.

We should never judge those who are in authority, lest we should find ourselves judging our Father. He is with those in authority. He is on their side, so to speak. That is why we are exhorted to not accuse an elder without two or three witnesses to the fact, since they are ordained, called to a blameless standard, and given authority to rule. (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Tim 5:19). We should pray for the those who are in authority, be humble and submit, guard their dignity and reputation, and wait for our Father's judgment (1 Cor 4:1-5).

The imperfections of the imperfect men that our Father has placed in positions of authority in the Body always seems to bring out the rebellion that is hidden within all of us. Just as the refiner's fire brings to the surface the impurities in the gold, so the defects of those who are in authority bring out the rebellion of the rebellious. The flesh loves to decree how it should be treated, so if those who are in authority don't treat it thus and thus, then they aren't received.

Rebellion is a Satanic principle because it was he who first thought to set his throne in greater authority and command than the throne of God. From that point on, he incited others to the same revolutionary war. Not only did he take one-third of the angels of heaven with him, but he won over all of humanity to his side when he seduced Eve, and captured with her Adam.

Today men are selfish, egotistic beings who are out to put themselves first. This is the REBELLION, and it leads to the second death.

When we resist authority, it is because we want to do our own will and not the will of our Father which comes to us through our brother. Sometimes it is because we think we are right, and we don't like to admit that the other person is right, or even that he might have a good reason to think as he does. All this comes from that principle within us that preserves SELF. Self causes us to rebel. We resist authority. Our Father always provides the people and the circumstances that are exactly fitted to expose our rebellion. John 3:8 tells us that God's ways are higher than ours. They are beyond our discovery.

So, if we are one with authority, we are one with God. We should seek to get close to those who are ahead of us, those who are our leaders. Being one with them will cause us to be one with God. We should imitate the saints of the first community in Jerusalem. They were assiduous in the communion of the Apostles.

The most important quality of a sent one is found in John 7:18. The one who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of the One who sent him is true, and there is no deceit in him. We seek the glory of the One who sent us. Who sent us? YAHSHUA sent us. But if we are sent to make disciples and we are still seeking our own glory; that is, we have that principle of rebellion operating within us, then those who receive our gospel receive along with it this very same principle. They become like us. It is possible that they will become hidden reefs in our midst, a present danger to all who live in the community. Notice Diotrephes, who loved to be first among the brethren, in 3 John 9. We can be just like him. This is exactly the sin of the Evil One. The condemnation is heavy. Evidently Diotrephes was able to elevate himself to a position of authority in that community, because he began to put out those who were genuine.

John exhorts us not to imitate evil men such as this one, but he openly approves of men such as Demetrius, a man well-spoken of by all. We should imitate those who imitate our Master according to John 13:34, and receive our brothers who have been sent to us. Diotrephes didn't

receive the brothers, so therefore he didn't receive YAHSHUA. John 13:20 tells us that if we receive those whom YAHSHUA sends, we receive Him. Even He Himself said in John 12:44 that the one who believes in Him is not believing in Him, but in the One who sent Him. Therefore, we believe in YAHSHUA's Father, because He is the One who sent the Messiah.

John 13:21 says that someone was going to betray YAHSHUA. There can be in our midst, traitors, those within whom the Satanic principle operates. This principle doesn't always function in an obvious way, but goes on inside the person, even when that person is not consciously aware of it. Nobody thinks that they could be a Judas (Is it I?); but that's because they never had opportunity to know the man. When we come to know the man, Judas, many of us start to identify with him, and start to perceive the traitor within themselves.

The Satanic principle operates through our own reasoning, not that reason in itself is wrong, but it is the way in which we use our reasoning power. We can reason for the good or for evil, depending on our motive. It is our motive that determines whether we are functioning for YAHSHUA or for the Evil One. If we want to be Number One, or if we want to be RIGHT, or if we want to be THE BEST, or if we want to always receive everybody's attention, in effect, if our desire is anything less than to put YAHSHUA on the throne of our life, then we are functioning by means of the Satanic motive. That's how he was. Many people arrive in the community already quite refined. They have a lot of knowledge, are quite practical with things, and have good, healthy habits. And there is nothing wrong with these things in themselves, but in the end it all adds up to the desire to be first, to be respected, and so on. Everything goes just fine when things fit neatly into what they think is reasonable, when everything adds up in their spiritual arithmetic. Problems begin when in their emotional mathematics two plus two starts getting five. In the community there are many situations like this, and when these things start happening, these people begin to resist authority. This happens a lot between husbands and wives. She knows she should be submissive, and she is. But when things begin to move beyond the possibilities traced by her emotional reasoning, things begin to get hard for her and she begins to

resist. From that point on she thinks her husband doesn't deserve her trust because he does not walk under the anointing and because he does this, that, or the other, and so it goes.

It's not that way with those who trust in YAHSHUA. They don't act that way because they've already gotten rid of "self" and don't bear mistrust for YAHSHUA's love. Way down deep there is that precious trust, that grateful heart, that thankfulness for being saved. It is like our children. If they are well trained, they do not complain or reason when given an order. They have already learned to trust in their fathers and mothers. Even so, if parents do not deal with every act of mistrust and rebellion in the child, then the child will internalize the act, by means of the conscience and the memory, and from then on that act becomes part of that child's disposition. Many attitudes which parents permit and do not deal with reappear years later, when the child has become a youth and reached the age of accountability. We need to remember that a great thing is made up of the sum of many little things. Great trees grow from little seeds, great men grow from well-disciplined children.

Going back over 2 Cor 11:2-3, the first community was taken by a Satanic deception that entered into them through something false. The deception comes in disguised as cute play, a little foolishness, tiny jokes, and a touch of facetiousness. The truth is this: it's all disrespect. And at its roots, disrespect is rebellion. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. As respect is to reverence and fear, so does disrespect have everything to do with rebellion. When there is disrespect, there is resistance and disorder. When there is respect, there is order and love.

1 John 4:6 says, "We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us; the one who is not of God does not listen to us. In this way we distinguish the spirit of the truth from the spirit of error." Some listened to John and others did not. Those who listened to him were of God, because there was no resistance in them. John knew that he was sent by YAHSHUA, so he was able to see the spirit of error operating in those who didn't receive him. Those who are of the truth have the spirit of truth operating within them and will be guided into all the truth (John 16:13). John emphasized the point. He said that the Master said it this way, "If you brothers abide in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set

you free." Therefore, those who are of the truth are those who are willing, do not have resistance to the teaching, but have, operating within them, not rebellion, but a willing heart. (John 8:31-32; John 7:17).

The moment of pressure always comes. We must expose and confess our weakness so that we can be healed, (James 5:16; 1 Jn 1:9; Proverbs 28:13). We need to judge ourselves so that we won't be judged along with the world, which is under the Satanic principle. (1 Cor 11:31-32; 1 John 5:19.) All of us need to be as our Master said in John 7:18, free from any false or selfish motive whatsoever, so that we can say with Him what He said in John 14:30, "...the prince of this world is coming, and he has no possession in me." Or, "he has nothing in common with me." The time will come when we will be tested, and the Evil One, the prince of this world, will test us, according to our Father's ultimate purpose and will. The evil day will come when many, because there is something rebellious moving around inside of them, will not be able to resist the authority of the Evil One. They will betray their brothers. (Mt 24:10). Do you think that the Evil One has a possession in you? Do you have something in common with him? Do you think that his principle is operating in you? Do you resist your brothers? Do you resist your leaders?

Christianity was born when the Satanic principle filled the first community and parted the brothers from each other. It destroyed the communion and consequently the community. Now, each one does what is right in his own eyes. This is the principle of the World, whose king and ruler is the Evil One. It's not that the 'church' doesn't exist anymore, but that community that YAHSHUA established doesn't exist anymore. Those who are part of this 'church' are able to 'live' together once or twice a week, one or two hours at a time. In this way they can continue living according to this principle, and at the same time claim to be disciples of the Messiah. They will be judged along with the world, since they do not judge themselves.

In YAHSHUA's community there are many, many opportunities to judge ourselves. Day after day there appear circumstances exactly tailored to test us in every conceivable way. Normally everything comes to the light. Everything is exposed for our own judgment or the judgment of our brothers.

The Evil One comes in over the wall and into the sheepfold in order to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:1,10). He comes in through one of us and becomes a thief of our time, a murderer of our joy, and a destroyer of the communion (fellowship) and community. This "one of us" is one who was not truthful in his confession of YAHSHUA as Sovereign, but came in to the community with the Satanic principle still operating in him. In time, he becomes obvious to us as he robs our time, kills our joy, and finds it difficult to maintain his fellowship with his brothers. In this way he is discovered, and can be brought to judgment. But there are those who are quite refined, can escape detection and go on to gain a place in the government of the community, like Diotrephes in 3 John. This guy thought only to promote his own ideas, didn't receive the apostle John, and expelled from the community those who didn't agree with him. As has been proven in our midst, those who gain a position of authority in the Body by means of strife must continue to strive in order to maintain that position. Demetrius didn't have this problem. He was a man who had truly given over his sovereignty to YAHSHUA, and he saw and received the anointing in John. This man produced good fruit. Let us be like him.

One day it will become quite clear who is against YAHSHUA and who is for Him. There can be no Judas in our midst then. The world is waiting to see a demonstration of unity. This unity can only happen in absence of the Satanic principle. Each one will have to judge these things and put them out, as garbage is put out for the garbage truck. Our submission one to another is a good thermometer that when well read tells us whether we are of God or not. He who is not of God simply will not submit, will not subject himself to Messiah's rule in the Body. If you have a principle of rebellion operating in you, you will be disrespectful of authority, whether you want to or not. Why? Because the spirit that works within you wants to undo the authority that establishes the kingdom of YAHSHUA. Remember that our Master rebuked Peter for the wonderful, loyal, and faithful words that came out of his mouth, by saying, "Get behind me, Satan." Peter didn't know what spirit was motivating him to say those words and try to deviate our Master from His Father's purpose. If YAHSHUA had listened to Peter's words, we would not have been saved. Everything would have been destroyed before it began. So, if we

destroy, scatter, or even work against YAHSHUA's purpose in building His community, we will be destroyed ourselves (1 Cor 3:17). If we build with Him, we also shall be built.

Our Master came to save those sinners who need to be corrected. If you are afraid of death, obey the Good News! If you obey, you will never taste death. I don't think that anyone can describe exactly what death is like, but I know for sure that you don't want to go there. What does it mean to gnash teeth? It is the deep remorse and anguish felt for what could have been. See Proverb 5:11. There you see the gnashing of teeth because someone disobeyed. He was cut off in the midst of the assembly. Do you see what a wonderful warning we have? We can live and not die.

All of us need to be sure that we are in the Body and that we have received the Spirit that is in the Body. If our spirit has not yet been saved we will always have a resisting heart, and we won't really love, and we won't be saved. Remember, we are not here just to get better and recuperate from some sickness. We are here to be entirely saved. The Good News saves our spirit and our soul. If after fifteen years in the community we are the same as we were when we first came in, something is wrong. Probably we have not yet been saved. We cannot wait until YAHSHUA comes back before we expose our withered condition. We must doubt our salvation, if there hasn't been any change in us, even after all those years in the community. Test yourself. See if you are not speaking words that take away from those in authority. Are you still resisting your brothers? This means that we have not yet come to know the Sovereignty of YAHSHUA. The day will come when all of His enemies will be placed under His feet. Where will you be? On that day, YAHSHUA will hand over all authority back to His Father. The last enemy to be defeated will be death. It will be. First, it needs to be defeated in us.