

## I. The Dividing Power of God's Word

We are going to turn to John chapter 7. Last week we began to look at the great principle of how the Word of God will divide us. In chapter 7, you find that it will be one of the chapters where we see that Christ's own family rejected Him, everybody except James. James becomes a key apostle in Jerusalem, and he is a real leader there as you get farther on in the book of Acts.

You want to keep in mind that all of this will be part, as I said, and I want to keep this always before you, of the great mystery of iniquity in 2 Thessalonians 2:7. Simply, the devil is trying to stop Christ and take His place as God.

## II. Patterns of Division and God's Intervention

We have talked a lot about patterns, and I want you to see how patterns are always key to seeing how things work, because history never changes. The times change, the people change, but the patterns always stay the same. This is the pattern that you have here, and maybe you just haven't quite put the pattern together.

First of all, we saw in chapter 6 that the devil infiltrates the twelve who are doing the ministry with Judas. We now know that he is of that wicked one, 1 John 3:12. Then he divides the people, and he uses the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees to do that. All this is to stop what Christ is doing. The nation is divided; they are in great turmoil. Then finally, watch the pattern, finally he attacks Christ's own family and he divides them. All this is to get truth out of the way and to stop Christ from doing what He was going to do. You want to see that Christ, as the truth, divided all these things. Then the devil subtracted truth, and you saw the problem that you have.

Now, make the parallels to our own time, then and now. We see a division of our nation. We see a division of our people, Christianity. We see a division of churches, and now we see a great division of families. It is quite incredible when you see it. The key that you want to remember, the reason why patterns will never fail you, is because patterns are built on history. You can argue a lot of things about everything you want, but you cannot dispute the facts of history. In the Bible, patterns are based on the history of things, and so they just never fail. The success or destruction of God's plan will, like John 1:7, depend on what man does with that truth.

The history of America, and most of you are well familiar with it now, we have covered it many, many times, but it was built by our Founding Fathers on the principles of the Word of God. We know that down through history, God moves to do what He wants to do, and the devil moves to do what he wants to do. So we find in the history of America, where once God's plan got going, the devil began to divide by bringing in the seven counterfeit religions, and that began to try to undo what God had planned for America.

So what God did, and this is a fact of history, God then injected Himself into American history. In history, it is called the seven great awakenings. I was watching this week with the medical

stuff, with all the virus and the vaccine, and now you are going to have to get a booster shot because what they told you before is probably not going to work. So now you have to get a booster shot, and then you get a booster shot, get the booster shot, get a booster booster for the booster shot, and somebody is going to be giving you a boost for the rest of your life. I thought of that, and I thought to myself, what is the real booster shot in history? It is God, through these seven awakenings, injecting Himself into American history. He gave America seven booster shots, and those booster shots are the real booster shots. They are the ones that kept America on track, that we are here today and have what we have.

Our Founding Fathers... I have a story to tell you. I want to tell it now, but I cannot. I have liked those four preachers that were in the boat fishing, and one said, "The Bible says confess our faults, why don't we all just go around the boat and say what our problem is? We can pray for each other." The first guy said, "That's pretty good." He said, "I don't want anybody to know this, but I have a drinking problem." The second guy said, "Well, I appreciate your honesty. I have a smoking problem." The third guy said, "Well, we are all into this. I have a gambling problem." The fourth guy said, "Well, I appreciate that, guys. My problem is I cannot keep my mouth shut, and I am a gossip. Could you get me to shore right away?"

### III. The Seven Great Awakenings and America's Decline

When our country was founded, the Pilgrims came over in the Plymouth in 1620. They founded America. When America was founded, then in the next 20, 30, 40, 50 years, we saw, and you know this, so I am not going to belabor the point, we saw God moving from east to west, which is the movement of the Holy Spirit of God in the Bible. We saw that right behind those movements, the devil brought in his deal.

So we see in 1740, just a short time, God giving us the first great awakening. That was with Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield. That was to go against the Unitarianism which was coming over from Europe, not the unity that you know today. In 1800, we saw another injection in New York and Pennsylvania. In 1820, we saw one in what was commonly called the Cumberland Gap Revival down in Cumberland Gap Valley. In 1861, one broke out during the Civil War down in the South. In 1880 or thereabouts, these are all approximate dates, we saw it move into Illinois and Ohio under the teaching of D.L. Moody. God injected Himself again. Moody had Moody Church in Chicago. Do you know that, now this is in the 1880s, he was such a powerful impact that every major newspaper on Monday morning across this country, every one of them, printed his sermons word for word in their newspapers on Monday? That is the impact that he had, and he was one of those injections. He was an incredible guy that God used.

In the 1920s, we saw it move into the Midwest under the preaching of Billy Sunday. What an impact he was. Then the last injection was around 1949 or 1950, and that was with Billy Graham. I will tell you, Billy Graham is a perfect example of how he started and how he ended. You ought to go back to find some of his early messages that he was preaching in the 1950s. I mean to tell you, he was taking the paint off the wall. I heard a message he preached at one time about America. This was back in the 1950s, about the handwriting on the wall out of Daniel. He was predicting exactly where we are at today. Now, I know he ended wrong and got all caught up

with the new evangelical crowd and got destroyed in his doctrine and all that stuff, but that was the last injection. There will be no more.

Because as this country moved away from God's truth through the 20th century and rejected His Word, and this all starts around 1900, what I would call this transition, God now, as a country anyhow, has left us to our own destiny, our own destruction. When the church did likewise, then they are on their own. Actually, the church started first and then the country, because when the church goes, the country goes. So you can reverse that. When the church goes, the nation goes, the family goes. When the family goes, everything now is going to be a disaster. Add to that the end times, Israel in 1948 becoming a nation out of Matthew 24, and all the prophecies there are being fulfilled. Now today, right now at this moment, with everything that is going on around us, we are seeing the end of days.

## IV. The Breakdown of Authority

The number one issue today, what is going on around us, is not really complicated. The news media, whom you cannot trust in anything, I do not care who they are, their job is to make money off of news. So they will keep it as complicated as possible, misinformation to keep you on the hook. The best news source you have will be the King James 1611 Authorized Version by filtering everything you hear through the patterns in the Bible.

The number one issue today in Christianity and America is a complete breakdown, and this is it. This is the bottom line right here. If we fix this, we would fix every problem. Now they do not want to hear that. I flew to Washington last week. I tried to get an appointment with Obama, with Biden, and Nancy Pelosi, and I could not get in. I tried to meet congressmen; they would not hear me. Maybe I did wrong. I emailed them and told them that I had the answer to America's problem. Maybe that was the first mistake I made. Maybe I should have taken them some Gates barbecue, worked my way in, and then went from there. I am just kidding you. I did not go to Washington. But if I did, I could solve America's problems in 10 seconds, or at least get on the road to solving them. You know what? I am a nobody. Who am I? You have all these guys that have, and they do not have a clue. You guys, I mean, I could trade places with any one of you, and you could tell them what the problem is. It is not just me. You know why? Because you are a Bible believer, and you know what the problem is.

The issue today in America is we do not have any authority. There is no final authority. What I am about to say, if you are listening to this, do not take this wrong. I am not into politics one way or the other. I just know what the fundamental problem is. But I want to tell you something, so I am going to use this as an example. First of all, let me say this: there is nobody that has more of my respect than the police officers of this country. Wherever I go and I see a police officer, I make an appointment to walk up to him and thank him. I make an appointment to tell him that I know he is under a lot of fire, and I support him. Most of them, they are not looking for praise. I do not even think they know how to handle something like that. So they handcuff me and throw me in the back of the car. That is my feeling on it. You know why? Because the Bible says in Romans 13, they are the authority by God, not by the government, by God. We saw on Thursday

night that in Romans 13, the governments are ordained of God, good or bad, because God is going to hold them accountable.

I look at this and I think to myself, you look at all the shootings that police have been involved in and they are attacked for. Everybody in this country, not everybody, but the majority of them, are cries for defunding the police. There have been some places that say, "Get rid of the police, and we will hire a private security. Just get rid of the police, and everything will be okay." They actually tried to do that to some degree, and look what happens.

Let me just say this to you, and you are probably not going to like this, some of you. I realize that in any organization, you have bad and you have good. I think that 99.9% of the police guys are absolutely good. They are brave heroes. They put their life on the line. They protect it. I had a problem with one Raytown cop years ago because there was a cat stuck in the tree down here for weeks, and I was worried, and I called the police to get somebody to get the cat down. He walked out and he said, "Well, we are not really supposed to mess with cats." I said, "Look, this cat is going to starve to death. You have to get him down." He said, "Okay," and down it came. He did not do that. What movie is that in? You got it. What are you doing watching all those movies instead of being into your Bible?

Do you realize, and listen to me because I am serious now, listen to me, you realize in 99% of the police shooting cases that they got clobbered for, that there was a crime involved? Maybe it was not a big crime. Maybe it was a little crime, but it was a crime. The police are called. They come to do their job. They say, "Stop. Get out of the car." What does a guy do? He fights them. He resists arrest. I do not care what the crime is. They are the authority. Unfortunately, it is tragic, I get that. You fight the police, they get fired. They do not want to get, they want to go home at night just like you do. You know how many police are called to a traffic stop and they get killed? So they rode into a thing where they do not know what is going on. Somebody called them and said, "This guy just stole this," or "He did this," or "He did that," or "He is doing this." They do not know what they are getting into. So what they want is to ask you to come to them and what happened. Everybody wants to fight them. Because there was a crime involved, it gets out of control, and unfortunately, sometimes somebody gets killed. All I can tell you is this: police are the authority in our society. But we live in a society where there is no authority. We have no more respect for the police officers than we do the Word of God sitting in your lap this morning.

Look, I am not a black guy or a white guy. I am not a blue guy, a yellow guy, a brown guy, a purple, or an orange guy. To me, race is not the issue. "Are you my son? Are you my son? Are you my son? You honky? Are you my son? Black or yellow, red and white, they are all precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world." Come on, Alex, sing it with me. "Jesus loves the little children." That is enough. Good job.

You want to stop police shootings in 99% of the cases? Quit doing crime. What a novel idea. Do not fight them. If a police officer comes up and he says, "Would you get out of the car?" Get out of the car. If you did not do something wrong, or you did do something wrong, go down to the police station, cop a plea, get a lawyer, and be done with it. Why fight with a guy whose job is to protect us? You know the answer? In 99.9% of it? Because a crime was committed. That is all.

You know how to end a war on, so now we have a war on crime in America, and it is unwinnable. The police will arrest you at two o'clock in the afternoon for murder. You will go down there, and some liberal prosecutor will post your bond, and you will be back on the street by six o'clock. There is something wrong with our system. The system and what is wrong and what is broken is there is no authority. So how do you stop crime? I will tell you how you do not stop it. You do not stop it by defunding the police, but you stop it by obeying the law. You stop crime by not committing crime. You get some prosecutors in there that when somebody does break the law, they go to jail. There are prosecutors that are liberal that they boast about how many people they do not put in jail. It used to be that they boasted about and ran on the ticket of how many people they did put in jail.

We actually got one city, I think it is out in California. I hate to keep on picking California, but California needs to be picked off. We got a city out there someplace, and several cities that were thinking of this, that the way they are going to stop crime is to pay criminals a thousand dollars a month not to do crime. Now, what do you say to that, Bob? Where is the application out for that? Bob, you and me are going to sign up for that one, buddy. I will tell you. See, Beva has got a pee on his hat. That means he is headed to prison. Amen. What kind of reasoning is that?

When I was a kid growing up with my kids, I mean, when I had kids growing up, and they went to school, and some parents do this, and this is not a criticism, I never gave my kids money for getting good grades. Some parents do. My parents never did. When I was growing up, they just let us eat. We were going to think we were tough back then. You have not lived until you had macaroni and tomato juice. How do you go, oh, that was my favorite dish. You do not reward people and give them money so they will do right. You enforce the laws that you have, and you hold people accountable when they do not do what is right.

In one city in California, or this may be across the state in California, and this is on video. This is not some crazy old guy. This is on video. You can walk into a store, Old Navy, whatever, and take a shopping cart. It is on video, and you can shoplift whatever you want, put it in the cart. It is actually there, and you wheel it out, and if it is not over \$1,000, it is not a crime. Now, if you are going to do that, take a calculator so you do not go over budget. It is crazy. What is wrong with this? I will tell you, there is no final authority.

## V. The Family as the Foundation of Authority

When the churches broke down, the country broke down, the families broke down, the kids break down. When I see somebody get killed, it is a tragedy. I do not want anybody dead. I do not wish ill on anybody. I think it is a tragedy. I understand why it happens, and I think that it is a tragedy any way that it happens. But I always, when I hear something like that, no matter where it may be, I basically think two things, and I know this is me. When I hear the story unfold on the news that some guy got shot or somebody was killed in a drive-by shooting or in a police scenario or just somebody randomly killed, whatever, I always think of two things. If that person would have been in Bible study that night, or in discipleship, or a church, they would still be alive.

We had a girl one time here that most of you probably do not remember. It has been several years ago. She was killed in a very tragic car accident, and she came to our church for a number of years, and she was really a good girl. But then she got out in the world, and she got out, way out, quit coming to church, way out in the world. I will never forget it. It was over in Kansas off of 119th Street someplace out there that on a Thursday night, she was speeding with some guy in a car, and they got clipped by somebody, went into a pool, and the car exploded in flames, and she burned to death. Tragic. I remember somebody calling me and telling me that this girl had died tragically, and I felt so bad for it. But at the same time, I thought to myself, if she would have been in Bible study on Thursday night, she would still be alive. Folks, there has to be some kind of accountability to authority. There just has to be.

The second thing I ask myself in any tragedy: where was mom and dad in this? Where were the parents in this? How does a kid get out into a gang? How does a kid do a drive-by shooting? Was mom driving? Is this your family outing? Where is the responsibility of good parenting to put kids under an authority? Because good, solid families are the key to a good, solid Christianity. But it is also imperative for a good, solid nation. I would say that the statistics would prove this out, that 95%, and maybe even more than this percent, of the kids that get in trouble in gangs and kill each other have no father in their life. Their moms have had multiple kids by multiple fathers. The fathers do not care about the kid. The mothers then, burdened with them, she cannot work. She cannot work on welfare because she has got nine kids she has got to take care of. There is no father figure in their life. There is no good father figure. There are just a lot of no-good fathers. So they drift into the world, and there you go. It is a tragedy.

The great Bible verse on this says in Proverbs 22:6:

*Proverbs 22:6*

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

The counter to that is, do not train up a child, and away he will go. That is why in the Old Testament, rebellious children, children who were against and rebelled against authority, there was no quarter given because God understood that if you lose the children in a family, you lose the nation. I know a lot of people have a tough time with this, but you will read it in Deuteronomy 21:18-21.

*Deuteronomy 21:18-21*

*If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:*

*Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;*

*And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.*

*And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.*

Now that sounds so absolutely barbaric, but God knew that if you do not keep the kids in tow, you lose your nation. I have learned in the New Testament under grace that rebellious children will always be produced by rebellious parents. Many of them who go to church have the right Bible, probably saved, and yet you live under that spirit of falsehood and pass that on to your kids.

In all my years of ministry, this is a once-upon-a-time story. I had a family years ago, a mom and a dad, two boys, and one girl. They have always stayed, it is like everybody knows where you were at on 9/11. You own, well, probably nobody remembers where they were at on Pearl Harbor because you were not even born yet, but some major event, I remember where I was when JFK got killed. I remember where I was on 9/11. We have things, and in ministry for me, there will be certain things that will just stick with me, and I will look at everything else I have to deal with, and that will be a kind of like a litmus test, kind of like a measuring rod. This one has always stayed in my mind as the poster child of a dysfunctional family. A mom and dad most likely were truly probably saved, but this family was a disaster. This family was not just a train wreck, it was a train wreck on a train wreck. Yet they would argue with you and me, and they would say that they love God, they love the Bible, they are in the Bible every day, and all that good stuff. Okay, good.

## VI. The Fruit of Disobedience

You could use this example in ministry, and I do in my own when I am dealing with people, like you would in biology class, dissect a frog and see what makes it leap or what makes it do what it does. First of all, there are a couple of things here that I have never forgotten, and I learned from these. First of all, mom ran the family. Dad was an absolute wuss. That would be your first warning light. I would talk to him, and I would say, "Why don't you do this?" And he would always take it back, "Well, I was going to, and then my wife told me what to do." I am sure she had a T-shirt that said that she wore when she was with him, "When I want your opinion, I will give it to you." This was the first problem.

Boy number one was a total alley cat. He had the morals of a goat. He was after every girl he could find. Later he got married, but after he got married, believe it or not, and this was years ago, he would still send girls in his church letters asking to send him naked pictures of himself. Later he left his wife and his kids, and he headed back to the alley. That is probably where he is at today.

Boy number two was even worse if that could be possible. He was into drugs. Whenever I ever saw him, his eye pupils looked like two pie plates. He fathered two or three, I cannot remember the exact number, illegitimate kids, all by different women. In time, he left all of them, or they left him. In a couple of cases, the women were so fed up with him, they took the kids, and he never got to see them again. It was just a disaster.

The girl split. Not to mean there were two of her, she just left. If you do not put a little humor in this, you are all going to go out of here crying. So just bear with me today. I have a dance routine I am going to do here in a few minutes, so stay with me. The girl split; she wanted nothing to do

with this ungodly situation. Last I heard from her, she was married, raising a family, and in a good church. Good for her. But she wanted absolutely nothing to do with the Adams family from your TV fame. The family to this day, I know where they are at, I know whose church they are in, I talk to the pastor, he just tells me, and I just shake my head. The family to this day blame everybody else for their problems with their kids instead of taking responsibility because they taught their kids no authority. It did not take a rocket scientist to see what the real issue was: it was the parents. Dad was not in charge, but the wicked witch of the west was.

Mom states that they are good boys. Oh, how many times I have heard that? "Well, they are really good boys, and they really do not do anything wrong, it is always everybody else's fault." Boy number two, you are not going to believe this, boy number two, I think it was the second girl he got pregnant. There was a group of us that were around, and mom was going off about this and that, and some of you may remember this, she blamed the pregnancy on the girls not taking birth control to keep them from getting pregnant from her son. Me, in my infinite wisdom, I knew what the problem was, and I offered her my number, my vet, to have him neutered. Terribly without anesthetic.

It only gets better. When baby number two came along, I think that was baby number one. When baby number two came along, mom is posting, now keep in mind, this kid is totally illegitimate, conceived in sin. The Bible says in the book of Hebrews that it is a bastard child if you want to use that term, and take it back to Hebrews where it lays that out in Hebrews 12:8, illegitimacy. That is where the word originally comes from. Now she is posting and telling everybody, "Oh, I am going to have a grandbaby! Oh, it is just wonderful! I am so excited! I am going to have a grandbaby!" You mean the one that was conceived in sin? Now I realize it is not the kid's problem, it is not the kid's fault, but I am going to tell you right now, in all these situations, it is the kids who pay the price. If you do not know that, I will help you here in just a little bit.

It is a thing when you mean the baby, the illegitimate child, conceived in sin out of wedlock, and you actually think, you really do, you actually think that that is the same as what God intended through marriage of producing children. Boy number two knew nothing about the Bible. His favorite verse was Genesis 1:28:

*Genesis 1:28*

*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

You actually think that that is the same as what God did? I told her one time, I said, "You know what, I think you have been getting into your boy's stash of whatever drugs he is selling." Listen, having a baby out of wedlock happens. Absolutely, it does. I have dealt with it many, many, many, many times in my years, more times than I would probably like, but I have dealt with it because it happens. It happens. But you need to understand, that is not a time when you start to get the nursery ready just yet. From the Bible standpoint, Bible principles, there are three things that need to be done, three things that need to be addressed. Not doing them will spell disaster. I have seen it, I have seen it, I know how it works. Here is how it works, and I have seen this

almost, unless they follow the biblical protocol, I have seen this in almost every case. They do their own thing. They have no responsibility to authority, that is why they got in the situation they are in. So now suddenly they are going to have the right authority after the baby is born, right? Wrong. So what happens, it gets worse and worse and worse, and either one or the other leaves, usually the woman leaves and takes the baby, the guy never sees the baby again, or there is some circumstance there that he does not care. He goes on to his next conquest, and the real tragedy is the woman probably raises those kids who are going to grow up to be lost, and they are going to wind up in a lake of fire, all because of some sexual pervert who just wanted to indulge his flesh and never was under any authority or accountability, and he is a rebellious kid because he has rebellious parents.

I use that as an example because the real issue in this family that we are talking about here will be the issue in every family when kids fall into the world. I always ask people a simple question, it is not complicated, "What is the difference?" I mean, you are going to have some guy out there or some gal who you claim that you are in your Bible, you claim you love God, you claim that you are right and everybody else is wrong, you claim that you know, "Do not tell me I love God, I am in my Bible and all this stuff and that." What is the difference if what you produce out of your family is the same as the unsaved world does? Where is the disconnect? You love God, you love the Bible, you are in the Bible, but what you produce in your family is the same thing that an unsaved family produces. There is a disconnect here someplace along the line. A complete breakdown in parenting skills to instill a moral value system into your kid and a respect for authority, starting with the Word of God, starting then with the family's authority under the Word of God, and then moving on out into the world from there. But there is no biblical working authority in the family that I was talking about, yet they were in church every Sunday, every Bible study, had the right Bible. If you talk to them, they would tell you how much they love God and this and that, but the bottom line is, what do you produce? Do not tell me what you believe, do not tell me this gas about who you are and how much you love God. What are you producing? No different than the world.

As Gary Potter signed back there, "You cannot fix stupid." So you will go on blaming everybody else to shift the blame off yourself. You have enough gas to float the Goodyear blimp. Yet the real proof, and I know this is not popular, so why I am not popular, never follow the smoke screen. Always look behind the smoke because the real proof will be found in one little verse that will absolutely destroy you.

*Matthew 7:15-20*

*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

*Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

*Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*

*A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*

*Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

*Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

End of story. Nothing more to say. You want to see the real deal? Check the fruit box. See what this family who claims to love God, be this, be that, look and see the fruit that they are producing. I get it. Every family has problems with their kids. I am not talking about that. Some of you have issues with your, I get that. I am talking about the family that I am talking about here where it gets so chaotic that they are producing now illegitimate kids, and mom and dad are pasting it all over the place, "Oh boy, we are so excited! Is it going to be a boy? Is it going to be a girl?" I will tell you something else. The real funny thing back then was some of God's people who thought, I thought they would know better. They are getting on there and saying, "Praise the Lord." Well, that is praise the Lord. But if somebody said, "Oh, I am a homosexual, and I got AIDS," you would not say, "Praise the Lord." Or maybe you would. But you see, God's people are so, and I will tell you back then, every family that did that, their kids were in the same mess. None of us could publish it. And that is what you are saying is supposed to mean something? "By their fruits, ye shall know them." End of story. You know where to go with that.

The importance of keeping your family together. So there is a great lesson in John chapter 7 as we come through this thing. It is a lesson that truth, God's truth, will either hold your family together like He is with yours, or it will divide it. Dad, you, sir, are the architect of your kid's future. You and you alone.

*Psalms 127:4*

*As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.*

You will launch them in a direction in life. You and only you. Many times when they fall into all of the things that like this family did in my poster child family, and all worse sometimes, pedophiles, child molesters, it is unbelievable. The family always blaming somebody else.

## VII. Doctrine as the True Authority

Having said that today, I want to continue on in chapter 7. I want to show you that with all this rejection, what the real issue was, and I want to tie this all into where we have been in chapter 6 and in chapter 7, and I want to give you today the bottom line. This will be the key to all you singles who someday you will be married, all you young couples that are already married, who are having children in wedlock, not out of wedlock. Moms and dads with kids. The key to having any real authority in your life and the lives of your children.

I want to read today John 7:6-17.

*John 7:6-17*

*Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.*

*The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*

*Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come.*

*When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.*

*But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast; not openly, but as it were in secret.*

*Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?*

*And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.*

*Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.*

*Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.*

*And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?*

*Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.*

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

Father, help us today. We love You, we thank You, Father, for all that You do for us and You have given us. We thank You for the people in this church, and the moms and the dads, and Lord, all the people who are following the Bible and doing what is right. Lord, the fruit is in their life. They are not somebody that has to sit back and chastise somebody else while their own life is falling apart around their ears with God doing nothing with them. They are active, You are using them, You are using their families, and their kids are a testimony in this church. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, amen.

There are a couple of things here. First, just so you know, verse 6, He says, "My time has not come." That is a crucifixion. We are up against that time, we know that this is crucifixion. All this is dealing around the Feast of Tabernacles. That is the other thing you need to know. That takes place around September 22nd, 23rd, however it plays out that year. Then we saw in verse 7 that He tells them that the world is going to hate Him because He tells the truth about the world.

I want to tell you something, and you might as well mark this down. You are going to start to see some parallels here. Anytime you start telling the truth about anything, there are going to be people who do not like you. It is just that simple. Anytime you shake the tree and the fruit starts falling out, and the fruit is rotten in that tree, that is, the family, they are not going to be happy about it. They want you to think that they produce the most perfect pears, apples, cherries, bananas that you could ever want in your life. When you start shaking a tree with truth, the illegitimacy of the fruit falls down. They are not going to like that. So that is just the way it goes. He testified that the world was wicked.

In verse 12, you can see the division that the Word of God has caused. Some say that He was a good guy. Some say that He was of the devil. It is interesting that somebody says that He is of the devil, because that is interesting, when in John 6 up to verse 70, we actually saw somebody who was of the devil, and now somebody is trying to pass that buck off to Christ. Interesting. But that also would be true of you and me. There will be some people, when you preach the truth,

that will love you. There will be some people that when you preach the truth, they will hate you, and there will be some people, when you preach the truth, that just love to hate you. It is just the way it goes. So you want to know this: when you stand for truth, you too, like Christ, will divide people. Some will love you, some will hate you, and some will want nothing to do with you, and criticize you, and blast you every chance that they get. It just comes with the territory. You will always go back and you say, "Okay, I heard what this guy said, I heard what this gal said, let me just look beyond that. What is the fruit?" Be a fruit inspector.

When you get to verses 14 through 17, we now see the real issue. This will be a good lesson for all of us of what really divides people today. Note verse 15, Christ had no formal education. He had not been to the established universities of His day that He would be accepted by the spiritual leaders. Yet in verse 16, we see that the real issue was the doctrine that He had.

Now doctrine, Bible doctrine, that will be the fundamental baseline or bedrock of the Bible. The major doctrine of the Word of God that will never change, and the Bible itself is built on. If you want to investigate this farther, you want a place to start, I would go back to Proverbs chapter 9. We covered it in Proverbs, but that was 40 years ago. In Proverbs 9:1, it says:

*Proverbs 9:1*

*Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:*

I told you back then that those seven pillars will be the seven main doctrines of the Bible that will never change in all of the world and the Bible and the universe, and Christianity will be built on. I actually gave them to you back then. New Testament Bible Christianity will be established on a Bible absolute truth called doctrine. Teaching that will never change in a world that is in constant change.

From what we have seen here in that verse that we just read in our preceding last couple of Sundays, we now know doctrine will divide.

1. It will divide truth from error.
2. It will divide truth from heresy.

Doctrine is what keeps Christianity pure. Doctrine, listen to me, is what keeps God's people honest. You can blow smoke all you want, how much you love God. If you are not following the biblical protocols and the doctrines in what you are dealing with, whatever that may be, you are under a spirit of falsehood.

Today we have completely done away with doctrine. This is the problem. The three great satanic tools today were the Charismatic Movement, Neo-Evangelicalism, and Neo-Orthodoxy. All three of those exist for one reason, and that is to get the differences in the doctrine out of Christianity. They have done it. That has filtered down into churches and unfortunately down into families. Now there is no absolute truth to hold us accountable in anything. We are like the book of Judges today. There is no king in Israel, and every man is doing what is right in his own eyes.

We see in Christianity, because of that, women pastors and deacons. We see homosexuality now they have accepted. I got a church up by the corner by Carnegie Park where I go to walk up there

sometimes in the morning, and there is a church out there that has got a woman pastor who is a lesbian. Out in front there, a big sign, "We accept everybody," with two rainbow flags. I thought rainbow flags were an ice cream. I found out they meant something else. Never ate a rainbow ice cream since that time. The last thing I want to do is to be at a place out there in front eating a big rainbow ice cream and somebody come up. No, no thanks. I am not going to do that.

We see social drinking. There are churches in Kansas City that are waiting for marijuana to be legalized, and then it is going to be okay. We see sin in every category like the illegitimate babies being born. Nobody cares about the sanctity of marriage anymore. Where did kids learn the no value system that marriage was not important to have a child? Or maybe in your mind it is not important anymore. You see, we see the world becoming one with Christianity by losing doctrine.

Our definitive verse on doctrine will be Matthew 7:28-29. This is your definitive verse. This tells you what doctrine bottom line is. This is where the problem lies.

*Matthew 7:28-29*

*And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:*

*For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

You see, doctrine is your authority. Bible doctrine forms for you an authority. So you can put out gas all you want about how much you love God and the Bible. If you are not operating on a doctrinal basis, you have no authority. This is why Christianity and families are in such a mess today. It is a thing where you will know that the reason the scribes and Pharisees hated Him is because they had no authority, and He did. Now let that sink in a minute. He was not of their school. We are not of their school either. He was not part of their movement, nor are we. But He knew more Bible than they did, all because He had a word of authority based on doctrine. They hated Him for it. You know what? They are going to hate you for it. The farther you go up the ladder to serve the Lord, the more visible you become, the more you become a target.

I will tell you right now, there will be plenty of people out there that will try to mask their failures by attacking you. When they do that, do not get upset about it. Just ask one question. I remember back, remember the Burger King lady, she is actually dead now. Remember the Burger King thing back there where they went up there and they were going, I think she was Burger King going to McDonald's or something like that. I do not remember the name, but she had a crusty little voice. She walked in there and she grew up there, and the guy says, "Where can she?" She said, "Where is the, where is the beef?" Remember that? She is dead now. She made a million dollars doing that. One little line with that little voice. "Where is the beef?" Because she was saying that those hamburgers do not really have any beef in them, but they do not. It is more like a cereal. You just put some milk on them and eat them.

That is the question you ask. Not "Where is the beef?" but with that same crusty little voice, just look them in their beady little fat eyes and say, "Where is the fruit?" Do not tell me what I am doing wrong. Do not tell me what the church is doing wrong when if we took fruit, your basket is

empty-o. That is Spanish for empty. Yes, I am bisexual when I speak two languages. I mean bilingual, I am sorry.

Now let this sink in for a minute. He was not of their school. He was not part of their movement. But He knew more Bible than they ever did in a day in their life, and because He had the authority. They hated Him for it, and they are going to hate you for it.

## VIII. Building a Life of Sound Doctrine

How do you get to that point in your life? I am so glad you asked that question. When I talk about building people, this is what I am talking about. This is what I follow. This is a New Testament biblical pattern for me to teach you good doctrine. You want to come to the place where with your kids, it is not just doing what is right when you are home. What happens if you go off to school someplace? What happens when you get a real job and you go to work? I was talking to Joe Christensen this morning, and I wish that he would have told me this earlier, but I was so busy running around. He took Riley down, was it Riley, down to school this week, right? He is playing ball down there, and the coach, it is a Christian school, and the coach, the first thing he did when he got everybody together, he says, "Okay." He said, "I want you to know." He asked somebody to lead in prayer. Everybody just had their head down. Riley raised his hand and says, "I will lead in prayer." Now, where did he learn that? That is what you are supposed to do. That is what we are all supposed to do. You look for the opportunity.

The opportunities are, there will be people that are to say, "Who wants to do this?" Joe Vester will tell you the story. Years ago, I took, when they were young Christians, and he told somebody their story, and they were just saved, and I had several of them, and I took them down to a Pentecostal tent meeting down the road here where they had some guy preaching, because I wanted him to see what Pentecostals operated. Joe laughs, he still tells his story. He says, "Yeah, I could not believe it. We are sitting there, and the guy gets up there, and before he even preaches, he says, 'I am looking for the happiest guy here to come up and testify.' I raised my hand so fast, I said, 'I am right here, here I am.' He says, 'Come on up here.'" I did, and for the next 45 minutes, I preached on the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleansing us from all sin. You have to look for the opportunities. They are right there. One little thing like that, and God will use that more than we could ever know. Your kids in sports, your kids are what they do, who are great testimonies, and all of them are. It does not seem like much, but I found out that real, impacting Christian life is usually built on little things that most people miss.

This is what I follow.

- Firstly, you have to have the right church, you have to have the right pastor, and you have to have the right Bible. Having the wrong Bible is as bad as having the wrong pastor. You have got some ding-dong pastor who has no clue how to build people. I have been in churches all my life where I was asked by guys who are looking for a pastor, and they will bring a pastor in, and the committee will ask him questions. Every one of them asked the wrong question. I could tell what a guy is going to make it or not by just asking one question. I do not have to ask where he went to school. I just ask him one thing: "If you become pastor of this church,

tell me your plan to build the people in this church and to build this church by building the people one at a time. How are you going to do that?" If he says, "Well, I am going to get him to read their Bible," drop kick him through the goalpost of life, that is not how. You have to have a plan. You have to know what you are doing.

Here are the six things you build into people, and I am telling you, we are going to have our leadership training come up here in October, and this is what I am going to do. I may not do this directly, but this is my goal of what I am going to do.

3. Sound Doctrine Titus 1:9

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 1 Timothy 1:9-10

Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; Having the great doctrines that have been handed down to us from generation to generation that are solid Bible doctrine. Doctrine of salvation, doctrine of eternal security, doctrine of the church, doctrine of the end times, doctrine of grace, the doctrine of the nation of Israel. When we come through Bible Institute, I walked you through the seven series: seven baptisms, seven resurrections, seven mysteries, seven judgments, the seven sevens. You will find seven laws in the Bible, seven trees in the garden, seven marriages in the Bible, seven barren women in the Bible, seven stages appear to go. They are all doctrine, and when you learn them and you put them in your life, they form solid patterns of doctrine for your Christian life. They become the bedrock. All these will establish doctrine in your life, which in turn will establish you in your church.

4. Sound Mind 2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Philippians 2:5 says that we are to let this mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus. That would be a solid mind. A sound mind will always be built on solid, sound Bible doctrine. A sound mind only comes from a foundation of the baseline of the truth of the Word of God. Your mind becoming one with God's mind through the principles of the Word of God. So I pour into you Bible doctrine. I develop you in Bible doctrine. Sound doctrine will lead to a sound mind, and that will lead you to the next one.

5. Sound Faith Titus 1:13

This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; You see, it is not knowing what you believe, but why you believe it. It is not going back to your kids for a moment. A sure faith will produce sound children. A stable, rock-solid faith in the Word of God and its principles that forms for them an authority factor. Because doctrine is authority. So they do not get into the godless things the world does because the family is standing on doctrine, and doctrine is authority. So they get a value system. The world, the flesh, and the devil will attack you and shake your faith. Destroy your family. We have seen it in the pandemic. We have seen it with the world falling apart around us. We have

seen it in the downfall of everything we know in life in America. The complete disruption of our normal way of life. But you know what? Talk is cheap. All of my life, even in our own church, before all this stuff hit the fan, I saw it over the years. People saying, "Well, I am with you, Bob, no matter what happens. You are the smartest man in the world. You know what? Yeah, I will stick with you no matter what you say." Yeah, right up to the time that your faith tree got shook. Talk is cheap, pal. We all saw it. We talked big right up to when your faith is on the line. Then it is, "See you later, alligator. After a while, crocodile." I get it. You come down to simply what you trust in. Your bedrock faith. Sound faith based on what you know to be true and the experience of what God is doing. We all go through tough times. I know I do. There will never be a time when something does not come down the road for you personally or our church. The only thing that gets you through that is a sound faith. Now a sound faith is not just, a sound faith incorporates the fact that you have had a relationship with God, and you have been in a bunch of situations just like this one, and you have always seen Him come through for you. You see, to me, my sound faith is not based on stepping out by faith without knowing what is out there. To me, my sound faith is looking back and seeing everything that He has been there for me in the last 50 years, some years of my life. I know that He has been there for me for 50 years. What are the chances He is going to be there for me tomorrow? See, that is sound faith.

6. Sound Words 2 Timothy 1:13

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. I want you to see this. "Hold fast the form of sound words." You see, you have to form sound words. You do that through your spiritual growth. That means you simply know what you are talking about. Jeffrey is going to preach here at the thing this afternoon. A guy preached last week. Every week somebody goes there. Everybody is on Lifeline. You are discipling, you are working. You are preaching other places. The guy rode to the street last night and down at the mission and all that stuff. You know what? When those guys get up there, they know what they are talking about. But they had to learn to form those sound words. You know how you form sound words? You form them out of sound doctrine. It is just a natural process. I watched that take place with so many of you. God, through the doctrine here, forms your words, and like Jesus, having never learned letters, you learn to speak with authority because of your doctrine, not because of your education. God forming sound words in our lives. Words that carry weight. Words that are important. Words that people want to listen to what you are saying. Because there is great power in words. Again, I am just telling you, sound words. Job 26:4, my friend, at the judgment seat of Christ, He is going to ask the question, "To whom hast thou uttered words?" Were they sound or were they unsound? Were they based on the fruit in your life, in your own family, and your sound walk with God and your sound doctrine? Or were you just somebody that was passing over the blimp of the football game full of gas?

7. Sound Speech Titus 2:8

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. That is based on the sound words. Simply being able to articulate sound words in sound speech. You see, the doctrine will teach you the sound words, and then you take those sound words and through the doctrine you articulate

those words in sentences, paragraphs, and messages. It is in teaching the Bible and preaching the Bible, giving you the opportunity to preach and teach the Word of God. By that, you develop your sound words into sound speech. Again, I watch God doing this. From my position, it is one of the greatest blessings, watching God do what He does with all of you. I watch you come in, and you are dumber than a stump, which is a good thing, but then you begin to grow. You begin to get disciples, you begin to get this, you begin to buy into what we are doing, you begin to invest your life in this place. Then God begins to take that. What we do here is what families many times fail to do. We build a value system, not just a morality one, but a value system of what is really important. I do not want you getting like this family that I talked about earlier, years ago, that you just get out there and lose all reality because of the fact that you have no accountability. It says here, "sound speech cannot be condemned." You may not like it, and you may speak against it. But at the end of the day, it is still standing while your family is falling apart. That is what people do not see. People listen to some gas bag and shoot his mouth off, or her mouth off, and they think that they are actually saying something, but the truth of the matter is when somebody has really sound speech that is based on biblical principles and their family and their life have the fruit behind it, there is nothing you can say about that. You may not like it, you may not care for it. You may not like the person. But at the end of the day, that truth will still be standing, and you will be falling. You have to remember this, folks. You cannot really condemn sound speech, but there will be a condemnation of you with the judgment seat of Christ that will condemn your unsound speech. You cannot condemn it because it is built and based on sound doctrine. All you have to do is just look at, again, the fruit in your life. That is what we try to do here. Wanting God to develop sound words into your life and into sound speech. Using every opportunity to get you to teach and preach, starting with you being disciplined and then disciplining somebody else. The nursery, the Lifeline groups, the mission, everything we do, the Timothy. I am going to open up here in just a little bit that we are going to, now that we have got it established, the Bible Explorers. I am going to put some teams in there to help Jim and Kathy to give them a break so they can get to church every once in a while. It is all about one thing, and that is to get you up to that level. We are having our leadership training coming up. For me, it is for one thing, taking the best that God has given me and making you better. I am going to take you on the inside of something. That is why it is not going to be on YouTube. That is why I am not going to let everybody out there who does not make an investment in this church by being here. That is why it is not going to be on a website where somebody can, some pastor can get it because he will never understand what to do with it. No, no, this is personally from me to you. This is me taking the best of the best that God has given me at your own discretion if that is what you want to do, and then I am going to walk you onto the inside on what the ministry really is and what it is going to take for you to get to that point to be a leader. Many of you are already there. Many of you are on your way there, and some of you have just come in the door, and we will see what you can do with it. But that is the job of this church. My job is to turn as many young men and young ladies out in the time that God has given me here to carry this thing on no matter where God sends you. To do that, you are going to have to have sound doctrine. You are going to have to have a sound family, and you are going to have to have sound children. It is just that simple.

## 8. Sound Wisdom and Discretion Proverbs 3:21

My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: The last thing that you will build into your life, all based on Bible sound doctrine, is sound wisdom and discretion. Here is where it all ends up, as far as I am concerned. This is the end result. Having the wisdom of God's Word, but also knowing how to use it. Discernment is discretion, and that is to be able to discern and understand what you are really dealing with. It is the trait of judging wisely and objectively. We are going to talk about that next week as we continue on with this. Seeing as it really is, not as it appears. A lot of things appear one way, and people will try to get you to buy into it by the words that they use. But the trained ear and the trained eye knows it is not sound words, because there is no sound doctrine, because look at the unsound family, or the unsound person. From time to time, there will be people come into this church that have loose doctrine. They have heresies. They will try to sneak in here and try to impregnate this, and it will never happen. Because sound words will always keep out unsound words, and the policy that we follow, the pattern that we follow, is the best defense against something like that, and never gets to first base. But every church has it, every church has it.

## IX. The Fruit of a Solid Foundation

When I build you into these six areas, you will have a solid foundation in the Bible. Truth, not just the biblical niceties. You are going to know your Bible, like so many of you already do. These will form the core value system. The core value system based on authority, that is based on doctrine. In your life first, and as you get married and grow, you young couples in that, then into your family. You are now going to be, understand this, you are now going to be a threat to the world. You are going to be a threat to Christianity, and you are going to be a threat to pastors, teachers, Bible colleges, friends, and many times your own family, we have seen so clearly. For you are now established in doctrine, and the truth of the Word of God, and that will divide you. You make your life's decisions and choices based on the unchanging truth, not the changing situation. That itself is going to divide you from many things in life.

I am not interested in you all being perfect, because I know that is never going to happen. I am certainly not perfect, you are not going to be perfect, and perfection is just part of our life as human beings. Obviously the Bible can keep that to a low minimum, and that is good, and that is what I am interested in, but I am not interested in making you perfect. What I am interested in is watching the progression in your life, growth. None of us are perfect, but I want to see you progress. A year from now, I do not want you where you are at. I want you to grow, I want you to continue, but it is not going to grow by you passing off your gas about how you love God, but there is no real fruit in your life. It has to be based on something solid, and that has to be in authority.

Yesterday in the Bible Institute, we were in Acts chapter 4, and we were telling the story there in verses 13, 14, and 15 about this lame man who was at the gate, and how that, I walked you through 10 things that shows you how that is a picture of an unsaved man in all the different aspects. He was laying there at the entry of the gate, lame on his feet, and he was completely

dependent on everybody else. When the scribes and the Pharisees are seeing the apostles that healed him, and all the great power that they had to give him the ability that now this guy who was lame, he is leaping and he is walking and he is running around and he is telling everybody what happened. They did not like it. They get amongst themselves and they say, "Now look at these guys. They are ignorant and unlearned men. They are not like us. They do not have the great wisdom that we have." The Bible says, holding the man which was healed, standing with them, it says that they could say nothing about it. They got together and they said, "We do not like this. We do not care for this. But we cannot deny what happened." You know why? Because you never can deny real fruit. You may not like it. You may use your own spiritual falsehood to cover your own lack of fruit up. You may blame everybody else out there except yourself, just like the scribes and the Pharisees did, but here they are between a rock and a hard place. You have the apostles who just healed this guy. They could not heal him. His healing was the fruit of Christ's ministry through them. Now they do not like that. They are organized over here saying, "What are we going to do?" We do not like it, but there is the guy standing amidst us that two hours ago was lame on his feet. We cannot deny what God is doing in that guy's life. They may not like it, but at the end of the day, you compare what God's fruit is in your life to what their fruit is. It is a joke. You know why? Because you are built on solid doctrine, sound doctrine. Sound doctrine that produces a sound mind, that produces sound words, that produces right down the line and at the end gives you wisdom and discretion. The Bible says, "By their fruits, you shall know them." We will hold up there.