

Domination

Introduction

Guest_Peter : Loving Father we praise you for this time of searching...

Guest_Peter : we give you thanks for all who are present and also those who could not make it...

Guest_Peter : As we come to study and seeking the blood of Yahshua that can wash us and make us clean...

Guest_Peter : may our hearts be filed with praise and humility at the foot of the cross this hour..

Guest_Peter : open our understanding and send your spirit upon us this hour and guide our dear brother as he lead out in this study we pray in the name of Yahshua

Guest_Peter : Amen.

Qinael : Amen.

Barbli : Amen

Guest_Adrieljody : Amen

Guest_PeterJr : Amen.

Zahakiel : Amen.

Guest_eagle : Amen.

Guest_Jirehiel : Amen

Guest_Israfel : Amen.

Guest_Uriel : Amen

This month, we are going to be talking about the concept of Domination. We will see, as we go through this, that to speak of “domination,” that is, one human dominating another, or one human being dominated by spiritual forces, is also just another term for corruption by the world.

The topic this month was actually inspired by a conversation I was having recently with another Church member, in which we were discussing the need to be more “aggressive,” if that is the right term, with our work at evangelism. The task of spreading the Gospel demands from us a commitment to avoid stagnation both in our individual lives, and in our efforts to educate others.

There is a lot going on right now in the Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church... With Yah’s guidance, we are doing things in this world that those with access to many times our current budget are unable – or unwilling – to do. And despite the Enemy’s many and continuous attempts at discouragement, now is the time that we must work as though the refreshing is right around the corner. And in truth, it is. Who, then, would grow weary and wither, just before relief comes?

And what does this have to do with domination? We will see that as we go along.

Dealing with Weaknesses

Last Sabbath, yesterday, we spoke about the divine mind. We saw that, although Yah's wisdom is unsearchable and infinite, it is directed toward the salvation and wellbeing of mankind... and this is an amazing and humbling thought. We saw also that, although Yah's intellect is utterly beyond us, we are nevertheless encouraged to explore it and learn what we can. The study of the Gospel, that the Word and Intellect of Yahweh the Almighty was manifest as Yahshua to live and die for humanity, and then be raised to life as an example of the Father's power, this will be our central subject in endless ages.

But now, there is the Divine Mind and then there is the Satanic Mind. Since mankind is created to serve, as we saw a few studies ago, we may really only have one or the other of these. We may really only serve one master. So how do we know which mind we have? This may seem like an impossible task, for the mind we use to evaluate ourselves is also the mind we are trying to evaluate... and we can no more do this than a ruler can measure itself.

And yet, we are not left alone in this work. We are given the assistance of the Spirit, and this help manifests itself in a number of ways. The conscience, at least the conscience of a committed Christian, may serve as an "alert" in situations where the way forward is not immediately clear. There are times when I, wishing to embark upon a course of action, have hesitated, and only upon examination later on realized what the Spirit was trying to show me. I am sure we have all had experiences like this. My conscious mind had not yet caught up with the "mind of Christ" that we claim by faith, (1Cor 2:16) and it is as real, and as much a part of me, as an arm or a leg.

We are also given the assistance of the Spirit through our fellow believers; and we are all instructed to be "exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb 10:25)

One of the ways that the mind within us reveals itself is how we deal with weaknesses in ourselves and in others.

Let us start with how these two minds deal with weaknesses in the self:

The Satanic Mind ignores weaknesses within the self. The scriptures speak of "willing ignorance" of Yah's judgment that the wicked cultivate. The same principle applies here, there is a deliberate ignorance of one's own weaknesses, and because it is deliberate, the Spirit has no space to work to correct the problems.

We read, "The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble." (Pro 4:19) So it is with sin, it is not only a deadly condition in itself, but it is naturally hidden from those who partake of it so that, even if they do know their actions are not righteous, they do not realize the true effects of what is happening to them.

To that end, what the Satanic mind cannot ignore, it will attempt to justify. It will find ways to suggest that the actions are not so bad, that Yah does not care about that particular area of their lives, that they will achieve some greater good even if questionable means must be used, and so on. Christians, as we have all seen, may point out the failures of others, even those in the Bible. But we know that this is not at all a sanctifying practice. But none of these reasons, these attempts at self-justification, survive in the

light of perfect love and divine judgment, therefore those with the Satanic mind flee this light, because they do not want their unrighteousness exposed. In fact, the Satanic mind will manifest open hostility toward those who seek to shed light upon their situations.

We read from the Gospels, Yahshua said, "Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also." (John 15:20-23)

I remember many years ago, when I was a Roman Catholic, and one of my friends had become a Seventh-day Adventist. He was showing me all these things from the Bible that I had never heard about, because I, like most Roman Catholics, had not read the Bible for myself beyond a few isolated verses. At that point, I was simply not willing to accept what he had to say... but at the same time I had no defense against the things that were plainly written. So... I resorted to anger.

When I see the reactions that CSDAs get from mainstream Adventists when we tell them what we have discovered about modern Adventism, I certainly know where they are coming from. I did the same thing myself before I came to truly know Christ. I could justify my anger by saying, "How dare you attack my Church?" or, "How do you know that YOU are not also being deceived?" That was easy enough to do, to hide behind a mask of outrage; but the truth is that all that emotion came from a very selfish lack of desire to admit the truth... that I was not in the place where Yah wanted me to be. I think all of us have had experiences in our past lives where we have run from the truth, and I believe that we can utilize our testimony of these things to show others that it is okay, it is safe, to admit our errors and sins, and to have them cleansed away. This is how we break the hold of the Satanic mind, and we should be aware of it when testifying to others.

Are there any questions at this point?

Qinael : No.

Guest_Adrieljody : no

Guest_eagle : No.

Guest_Israfel : No.

Guest_PeterJr : No.

Barbli : No

Guest_Peter : No.

So we are examining how the Divine and Satanic minds reveal themselves when dealing with weaknesses in the self.

The Divine Mind, in humans, moves past weaknesses by refining itself. It acknowledges errors, and it identifies sin. It says, as David did, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my

thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psa 139:23, 24) That is the same Psalm from which Ellen White took that statement “with a perfect hatred” toward sin.

While Yah offers us every opportunity to find the truth, and provides loving brothers and sisters in the Spirit to guide us, He also does not fill the role of a fault-finder. It is left to us, in many ways, to seek out righteousness, that we may know it and follow it. We are not passive recipients of salvation, even though it is a gift. We must reach out and take it, and must use the infinite strength of Yahshua to do it. We must unlearn how to “work” for Yah’s approval – as all false religions teach to one extent or another – and learn how to rest in the approval that He already shows us as joint-heirs with His beloved Son.

And what about with others?

The Satanic mind tears down, when it sees weaknesses in others. It exercises dominance over those it perceives as weaker. The Satanic mind needs to show that it is superior, stronger, more clever... and if others must suffer in order for this to take place, it lets them suffer. We read, “The instruments also of the churl (scoundrel) are evil; he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right.” (Isa 32:7)

And, “The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood.” (Pro 12:6a) Oppression of the poor, the innocent, the needy, these are often-repeated in Scripture as among the worst of all crimes against Yahweh, and it is for this very reason – it reveals the mind of Satan himself in those who do these things. But it can be a more subtle dominance as well, as we shall see shortly, and one for which all must be on guard.

On the other hand, the Divine Mind builds up when it encounters weaknesses in others. It covers over the sins of others... but let us be careful with how we use that term. The Scriptures tell us, “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” (James 5:20)

Peter agrees with James’ statement, writing, “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” (1Pet 4:8)

Both those terms, “hide” and “cover,” come from the Greek word *kalypto*, which means “To cover up.” In this context, it does not mean to pretend that the sin did not happen, or to excuse it. James points out that it is the conversion – the change – of a sinner that accomplishes this covering. And of course, true repentance involves acknowledgment of sin. Peter says that it is *agape* (translated as “charity” in that verse) that hides the sins, and yet *agape* “rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.” (1Cor 13:6)

Conversion and Agape cover over the sin as one covers over a body. It buries the dead thing. It puts it in the grave, that it should not appear again, nor come to mind. But the thing must first be truly dead. The divine mind puts away wickedness and then builds up life. It does this in love, with correction, and in this generation it does so with the urgency of knowing the upcoming judgment; but in every case the Divine mind does not exploit the weakness of others. It guards the reputation of others, which is one of the reasons we have Gospel Order, while at the same time bringing correction that the soul may be cleansed.

Are there any questions here?

Qinael : No.

Guest_Peter : No

Guest_Adrieljody : No

Guest_eagle : No.

Guest_Israfel : No.

Barbli : No

Guest_PeterJr : No.

Types of Domination

So far, we have been talking about a very obvious kind of domination. One commands, and we do. But in reality, domination may be far more subtle than that. If we are influenced to reflect the opinions and thoughts of others, especially if this is done without our agreement or conscious consent, this is the result of domination.

Now if one is trained to speak by the Spirit, do we say that the Spirit “dominates” that person? If we do, it is a willing submission. It is an invited dominance. Just as we are “slaves” to righteousness, so we may invite the Spirit to guide us in all things, and in so doing, we do not lose our true selves.

Guest_Peter : Amen.

Satan will often try both tactics. With some, he begins subtly, but if that will not work, he resorts to violence, to force, which is the last resort, as we say, of every false religion. This also reveals the general targets of this approach. In religious settings, Satan knows that force will not accomplish much, and so he prefers to do things gently, gradually... the slide to apostasy is very rarely marked with obvious signposts. It is only when a people, led by the Spirit of Yah, do not accept the false doctrines, the flawed interpretations, or the faulty view of prophecy, that the dragon moves actively against them. And this is just what is happening now.

In general, however, Satan is free to tailor the attack to the individuals. Some he reaches with distractions, others with fear. Some he lures with a promise of power, and others he drains with hopelessness and depression. These are all forms of dominance, and the chosen of Yah must always be on guard against the cunning approach of the enemy, which is often made in such small increments that it truly does take the vision of the Spirit to recognize it.

A Pair of Tools

So how do we, the chosen of Yah, avoid being dominated, either overtly or subtly? We are given two tools by the grace of Yahweh through His Holy Spirit.

The first of these is Discernment. Obviously, we need to be able to tell when the subtle influences of the enemy are attempting to influence us. We read, in a prophecy of Yahshua, “Butter and honey shall He eat, that He may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.” (Isa 7:15) As we follow in His path, we also learn likewise. As those verses in Isaiah say, which we have seen before, “Wash you, make you

clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.” (Isa 1:16, 17)

That last part, about relieving the oppressed, and looking out for the unfortunate... we learn from the Book of James that Yah’s definition of “pure religion” (James 1:27) has not changed in the thousands of years between the authorship of those documents. And as I said before, oppressing these ones, or even failing to defend them, are terrible sins in the judgment of Heaven. All we need do is apply this to spiritual rather than financial or political oppression, and we find the principle at the root of Ellen White’s statement, that neutrality in a religious crisis is the worst kind of “hostility toward God.” And what this shows us in relation to our topic today is that we can often tell the source of our actions, our motives, if we examine them carefully, to see if they will be a blessing or a curse to others. It can really be just as simple as that, but the world does not teach us to be our brothers’ keepers. We can only learn that lesson properly from Christ.

Discernment is not a difficult concept to grasp, nor some complicated thing. It is not something that only particular saints are to receive. It consists of first taking the time to examine matters and reason from cause to effect. And second, it involves prayerfully asking for the guidance of the Spirit to reveal to us that which we could not, in our mere humanity, know. When something involves mostly earthly principles, what we already know is often enough for us to discern the right path from the wrong one. When we are dealing with spiritual forces, however, we cannot rely only on what we have learned so far to show us the proper course of action. When Yah tells us, “Trust in Yahweh with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding,” (Pro 3:5) you notice that it begins with the encouragement to trust. Not relying upon our own understanding does not mean that we do not know what we need to know – on the contrary, it means we know more, through our trust in the Father, than we would have known had we relied only upon self.

Does everyone understand this?

Qinael : Yes.

Guest_Adrieljody : yes

Guest_PeterJr : Yes.

Guest_Peter : Yes

Guest_Israfel : Yes.

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : Yes.

Guest_eagle : Yes.

Barbli : yes

So now, when we have discerned the truth from the falsehood, what then? We find that many souls will be lost because, even if they have the discernment to know the truth, they lack something that allows them to act upon it. We find this often enough in evangelism. I have, over the course of the past several years, spoken to many people about my faith. Often, we enter into discussions about the differences between my beliefs and theirs. Invariably, there will come a point where they will see that what I am saying

indicates some kind of error in their doctrine; or at least, some flaw in their understanding of what they claim to believe. At the very least, they realize that they need to study the Scriptures in order to better defend the traditions they have accepted.

And really, this has nothing to do with intelligence or wisdom. It has everything to do with being correct, and being correct in such an obvious way that even those who would oppose the message cannot do so on doctrinal grounds. We can show from the Scriptures exactly how we derive every point of doctrine. If it is not plainly stated, it is at worst represented by symbols that are explained in other parts of the Word (such as the parables and prophecies). As long as one claims to believe the Bible, and accepts our viewpoint that it is consistent, explains itself, and CAN be understood in our day, then what error appears in our faithful application of divine principles to daily practice?

But many, when they find themselves faced with such a situation in regard to their own faith, back away. They lack the boldness, the assertiveness, to put their convictions into action – and I am only using evangelism as an example. It can pop up in many areas. They say, “I will pray about it,” or, “I will find someone else who can explain it better.” This is not exclusive to any one faith. I have heard that from Roman Catholics, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Baha’i, and any number of Protestant Christians. And we are not saying that anyone should jump to conclusions on such eternal concepts as religion...but the fact of the matter is that those who go away to think or pray about what they have learned, if they are not in a covenant with us and with Yahweh to do always those things that please Him, never return to acknowledge their mistakes. I really can’t remember any that have. Sometimes, of course, they do find other people to explain things in a way that they can accept, and this delays their appointment with conscience a little longer, but ultimately it will come down to a choice they will need to make. *The Great Controversy* mentions some who, hearing the truth, go to the pastors who will put their consciences to sleep with well-chosen words. But the responsibility is individual, and very real. Will they submit to the truth, or will they follow along in willing ignorance?

In our own walks, we must have the boldness to stand firmly on principle, without wavering despite the pressures from the outside. Remember, attempts at domination can come in two forms: it may be the overt attempts to intimidate us into surrendering our faith, or it may be the more subtle attempts to alter our views on faith and practice without a sanctified reason for doing so. We need to be able to call sin by its right name, to know who is willing to hear us, or who is only there to distract us from our purpose. We must know when to spend time ministering to a hungry soul, and when to ignore or avoid those who are driven by darker spirits to cause problems.

Even this very chatroom... we can see examples during our weekly studies. Every now and then someone will pop in. And while we enjoy having visitors during our studies, many of them are not here to learn, but to cause problems, to stir up trouble, to waste their time and our own. You can sometimes tell by the kinds of questions they ask, or the statements that they make... and you will notice that I very rarely engage such people in conversation. If they are ignored, they will go away. If they are truly interested in the truth, their questions and statements will be of a certain nature, and we can know that they are genuinely curious. But this does take a bit of experience, and it is not unlike any meeting among people.

Are there any questions at this point?

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : None.

Guest_Peter : No

Guest_PeterJr : No.

Qinael : No.

Guest_Israfel : No.

Guest_eagle : No.

Guest_Adrieljody : No

Barbli : No

Conclusion

We can identify a need for more to be done in Evangelism. But that is easy to say... we can always say, "More can be done." But what do we do after we have identified that? The concept of dominance comes into play here too, in order to trouble the saints. Satan will try to dominate us into thinking that we are too busy to do anything useful, or that our little efforts in small things, which we may actually HAVE the time to do, will not make enough of a difference to be worth the time. But discernment comes in here, in that we must learn to identify these thoughts as unhelpful, even dangerous, and to identify these as temptations that ought not to be accepted as our own viewpoints.

The next step is summoning the will to accomplish the aims of Heaven... this is where assertiveness comes in. And to that end, we must not be afraid to say to a tempter trying to influence our thoughts, "Get behind me, Satan!" We should not be afraid to say this to a person trying to turn us from the light, once we have identified them as such. I had a conversation just before I left South Carolina with an older woman from some other state. She kept calling with same questions over and over again, continuously amazed that we didn't believe there would be a fulfillment of the Sunday Law in the way that the fulfillment is "traditionally" taught in Adventism. It was obvious from her manner and questions that she had no real desire to "get it" in terms of the evils of the trademark of the need for full victory over sin. I overlooked quite a lot in deference to her age, but again, it was obvious that her repetitiveness and lack of understanding was a consequence of what she wished to believe, not what she was capable of learning. As a result, she was taking up my energies, sometimes a couple of hours a week going in circles, and making no independent effort to study what I was talking about.

Furthermore, I could see her spirit getting darker with each of these telephone "visits," until, during the last call, she actually began to spout accusations against myself, and pastor (whom she'd heard some rumors about online, I don't even recall the details), calling into account our intelligence, our motives, and our faith. At this point, I did not enter into argument with her; I simply said, "Get behind me, Satan. Your calls are not sanctifying either of us, and my time would be better spent doing profitable work." If I recall correctly, she gave a little nervous laugh, and indicated something to the effect that she was justified in her accusations if I was going to speak to her like that. But the truth is, this was how my Savior dealt with this kind of conversation, and I hung up. Now, I don't know if she would have called back eventually... we had left South Carolina just a few weeks or even days after that last call... but I really think that she lost her opportunity to learn the truth there, and I do not know how such an unwilling, bitter spirit will ever find another chance to redeem her life.

I bring this up, and spend some time on this example, because we have to learn to identify when people try to insert thoughts into our minds that we are not being effective, or useful, to the Gospel. Sometimes they may even think that they are genuinely trying to help, and these are the most dangerous of Satan's agents.

The kind of work we do as Yah's people opens us up to attention, and then attack from the Enemy, and domination is one of his most effective tools. If it cannot be done directly, it tries to sneak in from the side. We need discernment and boldness. And if we, because of our current knowledge or personality or any other factor, lack any of these things, it is imperative – it is a matter of salvation – that we urgently seek these gifts from the Throne of Yah.

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : Has anyone read the last post on the RFRA thread at Club Adventist?

Zahakiel : I think so...

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : The two before it are relevant as well.

Guest_Adrieljody : when was it?

Qinael : Yes.

Guest_Israfel : yes I did.

Zahakiel : Yes, I had some of that in mind when I was writing parts of this study, and yesterday's Sabbath sermon as well.

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : I spent hours on that one.

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : The Spirit will not allow me to respond.

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : But, I think it deserves a response.

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : That is a good example of dark domination.

Zahakiel : Yes.

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : I felt the blade to my throat.

Zahakiel : Ok. And yes, I do agree that this is an attempt to dominate others. In fact, the examples above about how people respond to this kind of information... you may have been having some Internet troubles during that specific point...

Zahakiel : That is one of the reactions we get sometimes.

Zahakiel : Knowing when to speak and when to be silent, as Yahshua did during His trial, is one way that discernment is manifest in the believer.

Zahakiel : And when we do need to speak or to act, that requires us to be assertive, and confident in the knowledge we have received from our Creator.

We simply will not survive this generation without these tools that we have been given, and it is our responsibility, individually, to pray for these gifts, to claim them in faith – and do not wait for some “special feeling” to believe that you now have discernment and assertiveness! – and then go forward exercising them for the good of ourselves and others. This is how the Gospel work must move forward, and we are the people who are called to move it.

Are there any final questions before we close?

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : No.

Qinael : No.

Guest_Peter : No

Guest_eagle : No. A profound study, Thank you.

Guest_Adrieljody : about the thread...

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : Here is the general link:
http://clubadventist.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/forums/171/1/Religious_Liberty_Issues.html

Guest_Adrieljody : Was that the one where the accused you of "pontificating" and why did you go to SDA sites?

Qinael : Yes.

Guest_Adrieljody : ok I did read that.

Zahakiel : The "dust off your feet" comment. In other words, "Leave us alone."

Guest_Adrieljody : Yes, I remember that.

Guest_Pastor_Chick1931 : My thought was this; Love dictates that turning the other cheek is in order rather than a dusting of the feet.

Guest_eagle : Amen!

Zahakiel : Right. And it is sometimes harder to tell online. Sometimes we spend hours answering someone's questions and comments, and other times we ignore them entirely.