

# Are We Strengthening the Hands of the Wicked?

## Lesson Two

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. The world is filled with wicked people. As Christians, we must be fighting against the ways of the world. Sin is a terrible thing from which we as Christians are to stay away.
1. Do not envy sinners. (Proverbs 23:17; 24:1)  
*“Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day;”* (Proverbs 23:17, NKJV)  
*“Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them;”* (Proverbs 24:1, NKJV)
  2. Abstain from any form of evil. *“Abstain from every form of evil.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:22, NKJV)
  3. Flee lusts. *“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”* (2 Timothy 2:22, NKJV)
- B. Too often, we fail in our endeavors to fight against the world. One of the greatest ways we defeat ourselves is by doing something that the children of Israel did: We strengthen the hands of the wicked!
1. *“Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life.”* (Ezekiel 13:22, NKJV)
  2. *“Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.”* (Jeremiah 23:14, NKJV)
- C. In part one of this series, we showed two ways in which we can strengthen the hands of the wicked.
1. We strengthen the hands of the wicked when we commit sin with them.
  2. We strengthen the hands of the wicked when we support their sin, upholding the sinner, even if we do not engage in their sin.

D. It is the purpose of this lesson to consider another way where in we strengthen the hands of the wicked.

**I. WE STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THE WICKED WHEN WE FAIL TO CONFRONT THE SIN AND THE SINNER.**

A. Isaiah was told to “cry aloud,” showing the children of Israel their transgressions. (Isaiah 58:1)

B. Ezekiel was given strict orders regarding the confrontation of sin. (Ezekiel 3:16-21)

C. If we allow sin to exist within the camp by not confronting the sinner, then we will have turned away from God and towards the wicked.

1. Consider the sin of Achan and what it cost the Israelites. (Joshua 7)

2. The church of Christ in Pergamos had sin within the camp. (Revelation 2:12-16)

3. The church of Christ in Thyatira had sin within the camp. (Revelation 2:18-23)

4. The church of Christ in Corinth allowed sin to exist within the camp. (1 Corinthians 5:1-8)

D. Consider the example of the apostle Paul.

1. Paul was innocent of the blood of men. Why? (Acts 20:26,27)

2. Paul confronted Peter to his face regarding Peter's sin. (Galatians 2:11-14)

3. Let us not forget about Paul's command to Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:20.

E. There will be some who will ridicule you when you confront the sin and the sinner. Let them ridicule. It will be better to enter into heaven, having been ridiculed, than to enter into hell, having not been ridiculed. Christ did not care what others thought; He stilled rebuked the sinners. (Matthew 15:10-14)

F. Do we stand up against:

1. Immorality taught and practiced in the world?

2. Sexual sins?

3. Covetousness and greed?

4. Divorce for unscriptural reasons?

5. Unlawful marriages?

6. All other sins?

- G. Do we stand up with our bibles opened and confront the sin and sinner, no matter who the sinner may be?
  - 1. Do we confront our family members?
    - a. Respectfully - our parents
    - b. Our children (ex. Eli - 1 Samuel 3:13-14)
    - c. Our brothers and sisters
    - d. Any other family member
  - 2. Do we confront our friends?
  - 3. Do we confront fellow Christians?
- H. Results: When we do not confront sin and the sinner, we loose our opportunity to be a godly influence. We strengthen the hands of the wicked!

**CONCLUSION.**

- A. As Christians, we have a responsibility to confront the sinner in a loving and humble manner. Paul wrote, *“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”* (Galatians 6:1, NKJV)
- B. We must heed the warning given to Ezekiel 3:16-21.  
*“When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”* (Ezekiel 3:18, NKJV)
- C. Remember: Let us not strengthen the hands of the wicked!

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