



# Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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## -Covenant-Relationship-Month- Warning Signs COVENANT *for* DIVISIONS

Message preached on Sunday Morning, October 29, 2023

Ephesians 4:16 – “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

(talk about the body and how important each part of the body is to the functioning of you as a human.)

**KEY INFORMATION:** The heart doesn't focus on making sure the lungs are doing their job...it just keeps beating.

The lungs don't focus on making sure the feet are doing their job...they just keep breathing!

The feet don't focus on making sure the kidneys are doing their job...they just keep walking!

**BELOVED:** We are to operate as ONE...yes the whole body of Christ...but specifically those who are intimately joined in covenant relationship.

That is why the enemy tries SO HARD to divide bodies of believers! Divide covenant relationships!

**HERE IS THE THING:** Falling out of covenant doesn't just happen out of nowhere! It begins small and increases.

There are things that will appear as a warning sign to covenant divisions!

**THINK ABOUT IT:** If there is a part of your body that is not operating correctly...it will start showing up through outward signs.

**Today we are** going to look at dangers to look out for regarding covenant divisions. You may not think anything is wrong...but if you see these things sneaking in...WATCH OUT, make changes!

### 1.) Miriam and Aaron

God wants this group to enter the Promised Land...shortly before they are ready to enter in... something begins to happen.

**NOTE:** Remember, according to Joshua 5...covenant was essential.

Number 12:1-3

- 1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.
- 2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.
- 3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

*There are two warning signs I want you to see:*

**a.) When you start getting your feelings hurt often. Offended.**

Miriam and Aaron felt slighted and hurt that Moses was in charge.

**LISTEN:** Things happen...I get it...we talked about this not too long ago. But when it seems to be happening multiple times in a week or even a day...that division is working against you.

We are warned again and again about the dangers of offense.

**b.) When you notice competitive jealousy starts rearing its ugly head.**

This is when you start comparing yourself...your skills...your gifts...to others. You start focusing on fault-finding and critiquing others.

You sing better...you preach better...you play better...you pray better. **BELOVED:** It is a dangerous slide.

We are suppose to be cheering for each other...encouraging each other.

**THINK ABOUT IT:** The first competitive jealousy listed in the Bible (chronologically) was in Isaiah 14:12-15 when Lucifer began comparing Himself to God!

When you NOTICE this...beware!

**ILLUSTRATION:** When a certain pastor was preaching and I was annoyed, angry at him (because people were putting money in his pocket) and at God (because I was broke)...but I caught that mentality quickly and sowed a seed in his pocket.

## 2.) Jonathan

We know that this is an amazing story (and has an opportunity to be even more amazing) that was thwarted by covenant division.

**NOTICE:** A few warning signs from Jonathan.

1 Samuel 23:17-18

17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

**a.) When you begin increasingly choosing comfort over commitment.**

**NOTE:** We could bring Orpah in to this convo too.

**LISTEN:** Covenant has EVERYTHING to do with honoring others...putting them first.

When you begin choosing to NOT do what you need to do (responsibilities) because it is easier to chill (you had a hard day at work).

**b.) When you begin ISOLATING yourself from others...staying away more often.**

**NOTICE:** Jonathan had ONE place he should have been...with David. That was his wealthy place!

**HOWEVER:** He isolated himself from where he should have been.

**IMPORTANT:** Isolating can take different looks.

\* Here Jonathan leaves David alone! Isolating David.

\* Your area may mean that you decide to forsake the assembling. Staying to yourself instead of joining together. Nobody likes me, everybody hates me...I'm gonna eat worms!

**INSIGHT FROM PASTOR THAD:** When I see your lung laying on the ground...separated from the body...you may CURRENTLY look fine...but I know that it ain't gonna be that way long!

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Proverbs 18:1 (NASB) – “One who separates himself seeks his own desire; He quarrels against all sound wisdom.”

**(ESV)** – “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.”

**“Divide and Conquer”** – military strategy that aims to gain and maintain power by breaking up larger concentrations of power into chunks that have LESS POWER (are weaker).

### c.) **When you stop focusing on serving others...want others serving you.**

**BELOVED:** What do you think Jonathan got when he went back to the palace? Servants! Instead of serving David.

When you don't want to serve others...you are in a dangerous place.

Galatians 5:13 – “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

**BELOVED:** Love automatically serves others. When you are walking in covenant...you are looking for ways to help others.

**UNDERSTAND:** Serving was at the heart of Jesus.

Mark 10:45 – ...Son of Man came NOT to be served...but to serve...

Philippians 2:7 – made Himself of no reputation and took on the form of a servant...

## 3.) **Gehazi.**

We see Gehazi first mentioned in 2 Kings 4...during the account of the Shunammite woman.

- \* He was the one who told Elisha she had no child.
- \* He saw that miracle child born.
- \* He was the one who ran to meet the woman when she came looking for Elisha after he son died.
- \* He protected Elisha (vs. 27)
- \* He ran ahead of them back to the boy and laid Elisha's staff on the boy's face.
- \* He saw the boy raised to life! Vs. 37

**UNDERSTAND:** Gehazi was in the same position that Elisha was to Elijah! He was being trained to take over the ministry. There doesn't seem to be ANY INKLING of wrong in his heart... but again things don't happen over night.

2 Kings 5 we see things manifest...four more warning signs to watch out for. 2 Kings 5:15-19 (turn to the passage)

### a.) **When money takes precedent over commitment.**

- \* Gotta work instead of doing what I should be doing.
- \* I won't tithe instead of doing what I should be doing.
- \* I won't sow seed instead of doing what I should be doing.

**BELOVED:** The love of money is the root of evil (1 Timothy 6:10).

**BELOVED:** We are warned not to trust in riches, but in God (1 Timothy 6:17).

### b.) **When you start hiding things from covenant partners.**

Gehazi hid that he want after Naaman and then lied about it when he came back.

This may take place in bad habits...it may come in “partially tithing”...it may come in acting the act instead of walking the walk.

**c.) When you begin being critical of others...especially those in charge.**

2 Kings 5:20 – “But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.”

**NOTE:** He didn't say it to Elisha...he said it to himself.

**NOTICE:** Same thing as Miriam and Aaron who were critical of Moses.

**UNDERSTAND:** Elisha was doing what he did for a reason.

Other times he did receive offerings...but he wanted to make sure that Naaman knew he couldn't buy the God of Israel.

Gehazi just knew that Elisha had messed up!

It is amazing how many people know how everything should be done for everyone else and become critical and judgmental over things.

- \* Pastor has totally missed God in his vision.
- \* Pastor doesn't really know what is important in the Word.
- \* Pastor wants my money...no reason he talks about money so much.
- \* Pastor is just after his vision...not interested in mine.

**BELOVED:** Stay in your lane!

Job 31:1 – Job made a covenant with his eyes to not look on a maid. We need to make a covenant with our eyes to not look critical of others.

## Conclusion

**BELOVED:** If we are going to enjoy all the blessings that God said we could have...we **MUST** walk in covenant with those whom God has connected us with.

He did **NOT** connect you with them to just pass the time...but to manifest your destination in life. To reach where God is taking you.

***You cannot do it yourself.***

- \* The enemy **HATES** covenant relationships.
- \* The enemy **HATES** when the Body of Christ operates as it is suppose to.
- \* The enemy **HATES** when each part of the body does what it is suppose to do for the well-being of the **WHOLE BODY**.

That is what stomps on his head!

**THEREFORE:** We **MUST** walk as **ONE**...operate in **COVENANT**...and be on guard for the signs that we are allowing divisions to move in.

Are any of these areas attacking you, today?