

Sermon Series – Winning the Battle

Part 2 – “Establishing a No Fly Zone”

Pastor Dale Campfield - October 30th, 2011

Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Current Sermon Series: Winning the Battle

Theme Text: **2 Cor 10:5** “Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Premise of Series: The fact is, as we go out, walking with faith to love others, the enemy is going to do everything possible to keep us from achieving the goal of making an IMPACT – reaching souls in the path of our lives for the Kingdom of God; Loving, growing and serving; he devil will throw everything he possibly can at you to keep you defeated, depressed and distracted. That is why it is of utmost importance that we bring every thought that we have into captivity in order to walk in obedience to Christ.

Today’s Sermon Title: Establishing a No Fly Zone

Allow me to remind you a little of what we talked about last week.

Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

In these verses Paul emphasizes the need for a good thought life. The Christian life is more than just the external. It is more than a list of rules, obeying the dos and refraining from the don'ts. The Christian life is something internal and that is more challenging than obeying a set of rules.

Christianity is about the internal and about your thought life. We must transform our thought life. You may need a revival of the mind. The Bible speaks about this kind of transformation in your life. It will transform your Christian life if you can keep your thoughts on things that are pleasing to God.

So...let's take a look at the Battlefield in your mind; for that is where the battle in life that we fight usually always starts – in the mind. It is a battlefield.

Romans 12:2

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

- **You need to remember that Satan’s great weapon against you is deception.**

If he can convince you to believe things that are not true, then he can control your life.

Remember the words of...

Proverb 23:7

“As a man thinks in his heart, so he becomes.”

John 8:44

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

We began last week by understanding the strongholds that the enemy throws at us in order to get us to trip up, thinking and then acting upon those thoughts that lead to sin, thus decreasing our IMPACT.

What are some of the vices or Strongholds that Satan uses in our minds?

The Vices (strongholds) of the mind that Satan Uses

- A. A Wandering Mind
- B. A Wondering Mind
- C. A Confused Mind
- D. A Doubtful Mind
- E. A Double Mind.
- F. An Unbelieving Mind
- G. An Anxious, Worried or Fearful Mind
- H. A Judgmental, Critical, and Suspicious Mind
- I. A Passive Mind
- J. A Reprobate Mind
- K. A Blinded Mind

Those are the offensive weapons the devil uses against us. Now, let's look at our defensive weapons to battle those of the devil.

How do you win any great war? You have to have a strategy; you have to have a battle plan. Each military operation has at least two strategies: an offensive strategy and a defensive strategy. If we are going to win the thought battle, then we need a strategy.

Let's look at the defense. To establish a defensive plan that protects your mind, you have to establish a perimeter. A perimeter will set a boundary and help block the enemy's entry into your life. Some of our greatest struggles develop because we live our lives without boundaries.

Boundaries protect us. In 1991, the United States and Britain declared to protect the Kurds in Northern Iraq and the Shi'ite Muslims in Southern Iraq. To do this, we established boundaries called no-fly zones. The U.S. declared that if someone compromises these no-fly zones, then they will suffer the consequences.

In a similar fashion, if we are going to win the battle of our minds, then we must establish a no-fly zone in certain areas of our life. Boundaries will help you clarify right from wrong. We need to know when we are living close to the edge and are in danger of going out of bounds.

When we fail to establish a perimeter, we welcome the enemy's influence into our lives and we find ourselves in situations and do not know where or how to get out of them. How do we do it? How do we establish a defensive perimeter?

Establishing a NO FLY zone (defensive perimeter)

#1: Establish a No FLY Zone around Your Eyes

Your eyes are the outermost defense.

Matthew 24:4

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Watch ... Keep your eyes open. Be on your guard. Stay focused. Make sure your priorities are always in view.

Secondly, you need to build a defensive perimeter in regard to your heart.

#2: Establish a No FLY Zone around Your Heart (your passions)

Guard your mind by guarding your heart. What goes in eventually works itself out in your behavior. I have been in some conversations where I have said things that have surprised me. I've wondered, "Where did that come from?" I realized that it came from inside of me. There was something ugly living inside of me. How do you get the ugliness out? Through reading the Bible.

Ephesians 5:25-26

... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.

Your Heart.

Your defensive strategy also includes guarding your heart. That's why Solomon, the smartest man in the Old Testament wrote:

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

We guard our hearts by setting our affections on God and His purposes for our life.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (**Colossians 3:1-2 AV**)

#3: Establish a No FLY Zone around Your Home

Don't allow your mind to stay in the gutter. Get rid of the junk. Go through your house, your computer, your desk, and get rid of anything that can take your mind astray to the ways of evil. If you look at it, you'll become it, so don't have it around to be able to look at.

James 1:21

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Illus: Montana home filled with demonic activity. We found D&D in the closets. One we threw it away and renounced that activity, it made all the difference in the world.

#4: Establish a No FLY Zone around Your Path

All of us have a path that we go to work on, play on, pray on, etc. We go from one point to the next to get us to the next destination. Around the path, establish a no fly zone. If adultery and strip clubs is your problem, don't drive next to them on the way home from work! If donuts are your issue, don't drive by Duncan Donuts on your way home from work. If magazines are an issue, don't go into the store that sells them. Pray that God will keep you from wavering and stumbling.

Psalms 119:105

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.

Ask God to put more light on your path and courage in your step. You need to take a stand against the forces of evil.

#5: Establish a No FLY Zone around Your Computer

The internet is one of the number one ways in which one now uses to fulfill many of the fantasies in their lives. We probably all have dealt with this in some area of our lives. It might be pornography. It might be gambling. It might be buying things you don't need. It might be dating sights that get you to stumble.

Here's the thing – computers are not evil! I took a class in college about that very subject, because when they first came out, everyone linked the computer to the Mark of the Beast and said there is no way you could use them in the church! The class was called, "Computers in the Church."

No, computers are not evil, but there is plenty of evil on the internet. I like to think of the url thing that you go to with every web site: WWW as Walk With Wisdom. Walk With Wisdom as you go to this site.

Some of you, need to put BLOCKS onto those web site that you know you shouldn't be involved in. And, another good thing to do is to make sure your screen is seen by everyone in your house! You're less likely to look at something inappropriate if everyone else can see it.

Proverbs 4:25-27

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.

26 Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm.

27 Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

#6: Establish a No FLY Zone around Your Idle Time

Sometimes, when you don't know what to do, you start doing things you shouldn't be doing.

Ecclesiastes 10:18

When no work is done the roof goes in, and when the hands do nothing water comes into the house.

If you find yourself bored and not knowing what to do and you have a tendency to do things you shouldn't be doing...? Recognize that this is an issue and fill that time with something else. Some of you need to get a hobby! You need to do something you enjoy and do that when you don't have anything else to do. It might be sewing, I don't know. It might be putting together puzzles, going for a walk, collecting stamps, writing, reading, etc. Find something to do and do it. Just don't sit around and let the enemy drive you crazy with thoughts he puts into your head. Put the thoughts into your head of the things you want to do.

#7: Establish a No FLY Zone around Your Mouth

There is power in the spoke tongue. If you constantly are saying, "I'll never be able to conquer this sin," you probably won't. If you speak negatively against yourself, then that's what is going to happen. You need to start speaking positively. You need to declare to the enemy that he is defeated. You need to speak nothing but words of encouragement to yourself and to those around you about yourself. You are not a loser. You are not a person of defeat. YOU WILL be able to conquer this sin.

Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death

At this point, some of you need to take yourself through deliverance. You need to renounce those sins of the past, take back any authority you've given to them, command them to leave and invite the Holy Spirit to come in and take its place. This is powerful and will change your life!

Conclusion:

So.....How do we battle these mindsets?

We establish No Fly Zones!

And as you do...

You watch... you wait... you'll see!