

Galatians 5:9 - But it takes only one wrong person among you to infect all the others.

What can you do to stop infectious personnel?

Personnel infections are happening throughout the world. Isn't it time you understood that?

It takes only ONE wrong person to cause an infection! This is such a simple verse and yet such an explosive truth for your leadership. Another translation of this verse doesn't sound so ominous. *"A little leaven leavens the whole lump."* But when leaven is people who *"interfere by holding you back from following the truth,"* (Galatians 5:7), then the problem becomes apparent and significant. There will always be people who are going to interfere in your life and leadership by spreading lies. What does that mean? It means that they use rumors, hearsay, and innuendos that infect others to think incorrectly. It may be subtle or overt, but it begins when someone you trusted, betrays that trust in the most insidious ways.

- *1 John 5:19 (NIV) - We know that we are children of God, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one.***

God expects you to build your leadership on his truth. If you're a Christian, why would you build your leadership on the way of the world? When you lead God's way, it's an inevitability that the devil will place someone in a position to build barriers to your leadership and it only takes one person to ruin your team, organization, business, or you. You've got to be wiser than the world in order to discern who should be in your organization or what business organization, job, or team you should be part of. The wrong person is like a cancer that slowly spreads an infection until drastic action must be taken to get rid of it, or it will kill the host.

- *1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV) - **Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."***
- *Romans 12:2 (TLB) - **Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think.** Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you.*

History is filled with having the wrong person in the organization or on the team. Judas Iscariot might be the first person that comes to mind. It's hard to imagine someone who walked with Jesus, saw his works, heard him teach, had his trust, but betrayed him for thirty pieces of silver. No wonder nobody today names their child Judas.

- *Matthew 26:14-16 (NIV) - **Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.***

The wrong person in your organization or on your team has the potential to hurt you badly. Any person placed on the team by the devil has the potential to destroy almost anything, including movements and countries. At the battle of Thermopylae, Sparta's king Leonidas led the brave 300 to stand against the Persian invasion until they were betrayed by Ephialtes who showed the Persians a path that allowed them to surround the Spartan force. Shakespeare wrote the famous "Et tu Brute," to portray the betrayal of Julius Caesar. Samson was betrayed by Delilah after she nagged him and lied about her intentions, (Judges 16). Benedict Arnold's betrayal is synonymous with treason in the United States. King David was betrayed by his counselor Ahitophel as well as King Saul who time and again lied to him.

- *Proverbs 6:16-19 (ESV) - **There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.***

What do nearly all betrayals, treasons, and undermining have in common? They always have a foundation in the *lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.* (1 John 2:16) The tactics

for betrayal may change and the excuses people use to justify their betrayal are as varied as snowflakes, but behind every betrayal comes a foundation of lies, cowardice, and evil.

- *2 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV) - But I am afraid that **just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.***

Each betrayal begins with trust. ~ Martin Luther

You might not initially consider a person as an infection, but when they bring words of deceit and betrayal in all of its variations, then they truly are an infection. There are multiple names to describe their infection. It can be called disloyalty, deception, two-timing, unfaithfulness, treason, defamation, misrepresentation, disinformation, fraud, hypocrisy, mockery, insincerity, selling-out, double-dealing, cowardice, double-crossing, slander, backstabbing, or lying to your face. How have you experienced those things? But faithful believers work hard to NEVER do those things. Christians strive to be trustworthy, loyal, encouraging, and truthful. Jesus was clear that His followers should keep their word. (Matthew 5:37) But the people who have made the lusts of the world as their God are subject to Satan's influence as he manipulates events and people to justify all the forms and frames of betrayal and infectious evil behaviors.

- *Revelation 21:8 (TLB) - But cowards who turn back from following me, and **those who are unfaithful to me, and the corrupt, and murderers, and the immoral, and those conversing with demons, and idol worshippers and all liars—their doom is in the Lake that burns with fire and sulphur.** This is the Second Death.*

Any physical infection that is left to fester will eventually bring about something worse, but a spiritual infection has the potential to bring about not only spiritual decay, but spiritual death. Infectious people, (individuals who bring the lies and corruption of the devil into your organization or team), have the potential to spread a sinful culture that leads others away from your godly leadership, away from Christ, and into spiritual destruction. They are indeed an infection of the worst kind.

- *Romans 8:12-13 (TLB) - So, dear brothers, **you have no obligations whatever to your old sinful nature to do what it begs you to do. For if you keep on following it you are lost and will perish, but if through the power of the Holy Spirit you crush it and its evil deeds, you shall live.***
- *Matthew 7:13 (ESV) - Enter by the narrow gate. **For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.***

Infectious people are rarely obvious at the start, similar to the beginning of a physical infection. They begin quietly and can be difficult to detect or isolate. They thrive on secret conversations backed by lies and false friends. They hide in the darkness of evil justification and slowly secrete their poison. Because infectious people are guided by Satan's lies, they support his purpose to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10) Step by evil step they transmit their infection until it reaches a point where the infection becomes obvious, painful, or deadly. Suddenly your options become limited. You must deal with the infection and depending on the severity, you will either be damaged, hurt, wounded, bruised, impaired, or overcome. Infectious people WILL hurt you.

- *Romans 12:21 (NLT) - **Don't let evil conquer you but conquer evil by doing good.***

Like a bacteria, infectious people provide the wrong information for others to ingest, as their lies spread and grow. Like a virus they disperse untruths from person to person, through an object, note, memo, or paper, eventually replicating their DNA into the organization. Like a fungus they grow in dark and rotting conditions, reproducing their spores of half-truths until they grow into a destructive influence. And like a parasite they live off their host, slowly eating away the organization's health as they seek additional hosts to infect.

No matter the type of infection, the body, (you, your leadership, your team, or organization), will be forced to react, pulling your attention away from doing the godly work you want to do. And like physical infections, you'll soon recognize the decay as you and others experience feverish non-productive activities, fatigue from doing what's right, inflammation that blocks what's good, pain that hinders progress, callouses that harden hearts, blisters that ooze filth, irritations that demand your attention, foulness in words, and growing discomfort in your spirit.

- *John 11:33 (ESV) - When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.*

Ignoring an infection only allows the infection to grow. All infections must be treated as quickly and effectively as possible. As God's leader your first action should be to go to Doctor Jehovah Rapha – The Lord My Healer. God is the ONLY doctor that can truly help you when the infections of people have entered your life or organization.

- *Exodus 15:26 (NIV) - He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, **for I am the LORD, who heals you.**"*
- *Jeremiah 30:17 (ESV) - For **I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the LORD, because they have called you an outcast: 'It is Zion, for whom no one cares!'***

Seek wisdom from the Lord about any infections in your organization. Unlike physical infections, spiritual infections can be much harder to locate, identify, cure, or remove. But you're got to take action. If you don't, things will go from bad to worse. As much as you might like to think that you have the answers on how to deal with infectious people, you don't. Why? Because infectious people are a spiritual problem MORE than a physical problem. If you don't ask the Lord for wisdom on what to do, what to say, and how to respond, you may find yourself out of a job, unable to continue leading, your reputation ruined, your future diminished, or tempted to compromise God's truth which is the worst of all the things that might happen.

- *James 1:5 (NLT) - **If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.***

Without Christian leadership, the world increases in betrayal and corruption. In today's world, personnel corruption is in overdrive from the perspective of who to hire, put in place, promote, advance, or remove. Here are just a few infections today in organizations and businesses. The devil's influence promotes an ugly and evil perspective to:

- Advance people based on who they know instead of what they know.
- Advance people based on their race instead of abilities and humbleness toward God.
- Advance people based on the fear of a lawsuit instead of trusting God's protection.
- Advance people based on cultural abominations instead of recognizing God's truth for culture.
- Advance people based on false religions and ignoring God's people.
- Advance people based on their gender, or lack of gender, instead of believing God's truth about gender.
- Advance people based on their political affiliation as if that is their god.
- Advance people based on WIIFM, (What's In It For Me), instead of the truth of godly service.
- Advance people based on lust instead of recognizing that all lust is from the devil.

As God's leader you need to be involved, (as much as possible), in the process of bringing any new person into your organization or on a team. Be strong. Don't let others pressure you to make quick or sinful decisions. Don't compromise what is right. If you don't feel right about someone, pray about it. Remember, the Holy Spirit is at work in you. Always give time in prayer about ALL personnel decisions and God will make it clear because he cares about your leadership.

- *Deuteronomy 31:6 (NLT) - **So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.***