

## BENIGN vs. MALIGNANT

There is “that which is good”; it is solely born of the Goodness of God Himself. It lives and exists to be the benefit (*ben= good*, being the prefix in *benefit*, *benign*, *benevolent*) to its surroundings, to the extent of its design. Any expression or element of good is being a part of the whole, and by its very nature exists for the good of the whole. Good is seen in everything from cells to organs, to the body of a person, family, clan, a neighborhood, a state, a nation.

Then there is evil. The cancer cell is one of the best, if not the best, example with its development and existence. This evil originates out of rebellion to God’s design (I **will** not !!) when a good cell is reproducing itself, becoming instead a tumor. The tumor in turn becomes cancerous, looking like a good cell, but falsely so in that it contributes nothing. Instead, the cancerous cell is parasitic, sucking off the nutrients destined for the good cell in organs. This process continues until the cancerous cell has control, ultimately to destroy the good cells and the organ in which they reside, thence the body.

This principle underlies the topic of this paper highlighting the spirit and root of the type of evil people who emerged in the latter part of the first century, They are the only ones ever said hated by Jesus, twice. These were called the Nicolaitans, who appeared in and amongst the early followers of Christ, otherwise known as the *ekklesia*. This *ekklesia* was full of life (red, like true cells, not grey like cancer), each functioning for the good of the whole. They were the original example of homeostasis, where in the human body each cell exists for the whole.

Like cancer cells, these Nicolaitans ‘looked like’ the real deal, but contributed nothing to the Body. Instead, they sucked off the nutrients intended for the benefit and health of their hosts. Again, as in the case of the cancer cells, they multiplied to the point of dominance and control until destruction.

The Nicolaitans, by virtue of their very name, originated from the Evil One to control and dominate the people. This spirit originates within the ranks among those wanting to be recognized as special. When **allowed to do so** by the Watchmen, this recognition grows like a cancer cell, taking shape in the form of vertical separation within the Body. This vertical separation becomes a hierarchy ruling over the people.

This desire for distinction is a primary difference between the cell economy of the Body of Christ and the economy of the Evil One. The former has functions of service assigned **by** Christ, whereas the latter achieve the positions by self-promotion, usurpation and self-assertion. The former always transfers recognition to Christ; the latter, like parasitic cancer cells, transfer benefits and recognition to themselves.

**He** is the one who recognizes you, or causes **others** to do so. You are recognized by others as being a teacher, not by touting your abilities. The same applies to any other function within the Body as defined by scripture; pastors, elders, teachers, watchmen or whomever.

This group gained power by a quantum leap in 325 A.D. when Constantine transferred the religion of Christianity into having political status. From political status came political influence and power by virtue of this insidious hierarchy and acceptance by the (ignorant) masses. As religion became political power, the political power was progressively transferred from Caesar to the Seven Hills, whose religion was then called Christianity, later Catholicism (all-encompassing). While Rome waned, Caesar the religion waxed. Rome's power simply changed form with the first Pope.

From then until 1517, Rome the religion flourished. Then time God sent a man to contest Rome's apostasy. Much fire, smoke and death ensued from Luther's sword of the Word. Out of this bloodshed Protestantism was born. But the same process of the cancerous parasite slowly began to envelope Protestantism. Now called again called Christianity, this new religious child has succumbed to the same old spirit of the Nicolaitans, largely inherited from Rome. Emerging ever so stealthily, reminiscent of cancer cells, this evil spirit has exploited the age-old 'recognition' for their own. Thereby, they sucked off the nutrients intended for the good of the whole. Spirits never die.

So now we have 500 years (1517-2015) of decline in the Body of Christ to a point whereby the true character and underlying principle of mutual benefit has largely disappeared. We now are down to one man, the pastor, with one function. This undue elevation of one man (physically on a stage and mentally admired by followers) eliminates any other functions intended for the health and protection of the Body. (Best I recall, pastors are last on the list<sup>1</sup>.) The demon spirit of hierarchy has permeated, yea, eaten up the Body no differently than malignant cancer eventually destroys the human body. And no one notices....

The parasitic cancer of hierarchy and recognition begins with the very basic nature of fallen man under the rulership of Satan. This cancer strives to be recognized, to be elevated. In the Body of Christ there is no distinction, no special recognition, no respecter of persons. Christ is the Head, and each member of His Body exists for Him and the good of His Body. Each has a function specifically designed for, and assigned by Him.

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<sup>1</sup> Eph. 4:11.

Get it into your gut!! Satan said, "I will be like God!" Yes, Satan, and you who desire self-promotion, may get what you want for a season, but only for a season. At some point, the true Head, who rules **everything**, will put His foot down and exterminate the parasites and usurpers.

Then He will start over with a few true cells...., who want Him only to be recognized.

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