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## October 2020 "STOCKHOLM SYNDROME CHRISTIANS"

Dear Friends,

In 1973, Jan-Erik Olsson was a convict on parole in Stockholm, Sweden. In late August of that year, he attempted to rob Kreditbanken, one of the largest banks in the city. Things went awry and he ended up taking four bank employees hostage (three women and one man). The entire time of their captivity from August 23-28, he held them in one of the vaults. Incredibly, authorities agreed to release from prison a friend of Olsson's, Clark Olofsson, who actually went to the bank to assist Olsson in holding the four employees captive.

When the police were finally able to put an end to the situation and arrest Olsson and Olofsson, there was a shocking turn of events: none of the hostages were willing to testify against their captors in court; in fact, they actually began raising money for their legal defense! Prosecutors were stunned and at a loss as to how to proceed. When trying to understand why the hostages were acting in such a bizarre manner, investigators interviewed Olsson, who said,

**"It was the hostages' fault. They did everything I told them to. If they hadn't, I might not be here now. Why didn't any of them attack me? They made it hard to kill. They made us go on living together day after day, like goats, in that filth. There was nothing to do but get to know each other."**

The reaction of the hostages is referred to by some as "Attachment Theory," or, as it is more commonly called, "Stockholm Syndrome." It is when those held captive develop both a camaraderie and identify with their captors, almost to the point of seeing them as de facto family members. Amazingly, this can happen no matter how much freedom captives lose or how much abuse they suffer.

Recently, the Lord showed me how that so many in the Body of Christ are experiencing Stockholm Syndrome with the world. Let's consider statements made by Jan-Erik Olsson when he was interviewed.

**"It was the hostages' fault. They did everything I told them to."**

In 1962, the Supreme Court ruled that school-mandated prayer in public schools is unconstitutional. The only reason that case ever made it to the Supreme Court was because liberals and atheists fought to remove prayer more than Christians fought to retain it. Christians throughout the nation should have risen up in righteous anger long before the case ever made it to the Supreme Court. Since that time, Christians have simply done what they were told to do instead of using their spiritual authority and constitutional voting rights to get prayer back in public schools. There are Christians now who agree with the Supreme Court's decision, believing it is not right to "force" religion on people (interestingly, God didn't have a problem "forcing" religion on the Jews when He delivered them from captivity in Egypt).

In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled that abortion was legal, which has now been taken to the point of abortions being performed during the ninth month of pregnancy and in some cases, when the baby is actually being born. This horrific and atrocious form of legalized murder is one of – if not the – worst decisions ever made by any court. It has only been in the past 20-plus years that Christians have finally pushed this issue to the forefront of American politics, wanting the ruling overturned. But in what could almost be described as mental instability, there are Christians who support abortion as being a woman's right to do what she wants with her body. (Such Christians – if they really are Christians – have no idea what God has said in His Word about shedding innocent blood, that children are the heritage of the Lord, and that the fruit of the womb is His reward.)

In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage is legal. In spite of what God has said in the Bible about what He calls an abomination, there are Christians – and even preachers – who will tell you that “love is love,” that God has made people what they are, and even participate in this behavior that God has forbidden.

Essentially, what we're seeing is that so many in the Body of Christ have gone along with whatever the world dictates, refusing at times to stand up for what God has said is right.

### **“Why didn't any of them attack me?”**

Why haven't Christians taken a stand for God's Word and refused to compromise? It's because so many don't know God's Word, or don't believe God's Word, or no longer accept the relevance of God's Word for their lives. Jesus said we are to live by every Word of God (Matthew 4:4); this can't be done if we come into agreement with the word of the world. Had pastors and leaders in the church world led in prayer and spiritual warfare against all the unscriptural decisions forced upon our citizens, things would be much different today.

### **“They made us go on living together day after day, like goats, in that filth.”**

Instead of being an example to the world of what true, righteous, holy living is all about, the general tenor of the Church has been to sink to the level of the world, day after day, living like goats in social filth. This isn't about being homeless and living on the streets; this is about the social climate Christians accept as being the norm.

Many years ago, the well-known preacher, David Wilkerson, prophesied that the day was coming when people could watch hard-core pornography on their televisions in the comfort of their homes. Many Christians scoffed at the idea and refused to believe him. But what is happening today? Partial or total nudity, along with real or simulated sex acts, can be viewed without having to pay extra for premium cable channels. In spite of the fact that God has said we are not to put such trash before our eyes (Isaiah 33:14-16, Psalm 101:3), too many Christians sense no conviction whatsoever in watching such sin on television or at movie theaters. This doesn't even begin to address the foul-mouthed, gutter language in so much of secular music today, which many Christians find pleasing to their ears.

### **“There was nothing to do but get to know each other.”**

As Christians in general have drifted away from holiness and lived more and more in fellowship with the world, symbolically they have come to see themselves and the world as one, big de

facto family. There are Christians who will even vote for politicians who will keep them in bondage to laws which enforce sin and restrict freedoms to worship Jesus. They are no longer concerned about the standards of God's Word, being more aligned with supporting the increasing depths of depravity being referred to as "socially acceptable behavior." They willingly ignore what God said in Proverbs 29:2,

***When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.***

To those Christians I would ask, "Do you honestly not believe the warnings and commands God has given Believers?"

***Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (James 4:4)***

***<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)***

***<sup>15</sup>Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (1 John 2:15-17)***

***<sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup>And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:14-17)***

***For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)***

(Also read Romans 1:18 – 2:11, especially Romans 1:32.)

All of this is somewhat similar to what happened with the Israelites in Exodus chapter 32. God had moved in miraculous and powerful ways to deliver the Jews from bondage to Egypt. In spite of what God had done for them, a great number of them made a golden calf and held a pagan, lascivious ceremony in celebration of their freedom (the calf, or bull, was a symbol of the

Egyptian god Apis, and later the Canaanite god, Baal). In other words, in spite of their freedom, many of the Jewish people had come to identify with their captors. When Moses saw this, here is what happened:

*<sup>25</sup>And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:) <sup>26</sup>Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. <sup>27</sup>And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor. <sup>28</sup>And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. (Exodus 32:25-28)*

Too many Christians have come to identify with the world, allowing the world to impose conditions of captivity and slavery to things God has strictly forbidden. Many actually rise in defense of the world, refusing to use God's Word as the standard for judging sin. They have seared their conscience to the fact that compromise is the path to eternal damnation.

However, just as Moses called to the sons of Levi (the priesthood tribe of Israel), God is calling out to His kings and priests (Revelation 1:5-6), asking who is on His side. He is declaring most emphatically that those on His side absolutely **MUST** separate themselves from the Christians of compromise (1 Corinthians 5:11-13). We must "put our sword by our side" (the uncompromised Word of God, Hebrews 4:12) and "go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp" (raise our voices throughout the Body of Christ) and "slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor" (use the Scriptures to declare the judgment of God on Christians who become friends with the world).

*<sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup>Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*  
(Galatians 5:19-21)

*<sup>18</sup>For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. <sup>19</sup>While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. <sup>20</sup>For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup>For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. <sup>22</sup>But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*  
(2 Peter 2:18-22)

*<sup>21</sup>Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of*

*heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:21-23)*

Stockholm Syndrome Christians will not be a part of God's true, end time revival. They will, however, be a part of the end time deception Jesus spoke of in Matthew chapter 24. I encourage you, stay in prayer, stay in God's Word, surround yourself with Christians who refuse to identify with the world, find another church if necessary, but do not ever stop looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Jesus is coming back soon...may He find us holy, without spot or blemish of any kind!

In His Grace,

*Jim*

P.S. – If you would like to hear a sermon which addresses in more detail the matter of compromise, use the form below to request a CD of, *We Must Not Compromise.*"

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Please send me a CD of the sermon, *We Must Not Compromise.*

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