

Response Required

We are updating our mailing list

We are charged to be good stewards of the resources God gives us. This includes making sure the work we do is not frivolous or wasted. Specifically, we do not want to mail the bulletin to anyone who does not want it. If you want it via the US mail, we are happy to send it to you. However, if you prefer to get it on our web site or simply do not wish to receive it any longer, that is fine too. It will help us cut expenses.

Here is what we are asking

If you wish to continue receiving the bulletin through the US Mail, let us know.

Notify us in one of the following ways.

Post card or letter to

Bulletin

3221 E. Hebron Lane

Shepherdsville, KY 40165

Or (preferred)

Email us at

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Reply by Sept. 1 to keep your name on the list; otherwise it will be removed.

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Naboth's Vineyard

The story of Naboth's vineyard is found in 1 Kings 21. King Ahab wanted it, but Naboth refused because it was his "inheritance" given by the Lord. In other words, it was family land passed down from the time when Joshua divided the land among the tribes. After Naboth rejected Ahab's proposal, Ahab went home and sulked.

Of course, Ahab's wife enters the picture. She wanted to know why her husband was upset, he told her, and she essentially said, "I'll take care of it." So she had Naboth set up and stoned to death, then informed her husband that the vineyard was his. He was, no doubt, happy.

Important Note On Back Page

What happened next? The Lord stepped in. He sent Elijah to tell Ahab the consequences of his sin. "Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel" (1 Kgs. 21:21). Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (1 Kgs. 21:23). The account of these events is quite fascinating (see 2 Kgs. 9, 10).

What lessons can we learn from this?

Ahab's desire to have Naboth's vineyard was not in-and-of-itself sinful. The vineyard was near Ahab's palace. There are things we would like to have that would make our life easier or more pleasant or whatever. The problem was that Ahab brooded over

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Personal, Bodily Indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

Some of our religious friends and neighbors believe in a personal, bodily indwelling of the Holy Spirit. There are even brethren who believe the Holy Spirit dwells in their bodies, though not performing miracles.

It is one thing for a person to make the claim of a personal indwelling and quite another to prove it. Emotions and feelings are proof only to show emotions and feelings. When it comes to knowing the truth, should we trust our feelings or what is written in the Word of God? We will take the latter, and trust you do too.

So, what does God's Word teach about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian (Rom. 8:9). Additionally, the New Testament says the Son dwells in Christians, as does the Father (Rom. 8:10; Jn. 14:20; 1 Jn. 4:12-16).

This indwelling is not direct, personal, bodily indwelling. Rather it is through the agency of God's Word.

When Jesus taught about the Vine and branches, He said Christians would abide in Him and He would abide in them (Jn. 15:4, 5). A parallel statement is made in John 15:7 where He said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you..." He abides in us through His words.

The same is true for the Holy Spirit. "...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing..." (Eph. 5:18, 19). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing..." (Col. 3:16). When the "word of Christ" dwells in us we are "filled with the Spirit."

There is nothing mysterious to the indwelling of any member of the Godhead. Each is with us and we are with them, in us and in them, when we hear and apply the Word of God in our lives.

- Steven F. Deaton

the fact he could not get what he wanted. Chalk it up to jealousy, covetousness, or immaturity, the reality is Ahab was wrong to be this way. He should have accepted Naboth's answer and gone on his way.

When Jezebel inquired as to Ahab's sadness and told him she would take care of it, you know he knew something afool was afoot. He knew well the wicked nature of his wife (1 Kgs. 21:25, 26). Yet, he did not try to stop her. He did not protest in the least. He was complicit in the murder of Naboth because he remained silent throughout the ordeal.

After Ahab found out Naboth was dead, if he was an honorable man, he would have refused to take possession of it. Too, he would have inquired about the "convenient" timing of his death and acted against the perpetrators of the sin, including Jezebel. However, instead of doing right, he accepted the "gift" gained by sin.

Because of Ahab's involvement in this sin, God condemned him through Elijah. The same will happen to us if we act as Ahab did. We will not have a prophet approach us with a personal message from God, but we will stand condemned by God's Word.

We cannot allow our desire for material things to lead us into sin. If we overlook the sin of our wives or husbands because we want something, we are just as guilty. As Christians, our duty is to resist temptation and rebuke sin in others (Jas. 4:7; 1 Thes. 5:14). And, one way to avoid these kinds of problems, is to stay away from the Jezebels of today. Young men, don't date them and surely don't marry them. Young women, don't be one.

- Steven F. Deaton

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,
and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself,
by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven,
having made peace through the blood of His cross.

- Colossians 1:19, 20